ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: AOMADARA, POTATOTOTOTO

TL: HISA-HISA, MEI

CL: CLOWNKING

RD: CLOWNKING

QC: KALLAMEZ

IT'S TIME TO BUCKLE-UP, MOTHEFUCKER. IT'S TIME FOR US TO PUT ON OMR BIG BOYS' PANTS, AND DO WHAT WE GOTTA DO TO GO TO THE OFF-SEASON.

O'S TO OCTOBER!

34
Shonen Magazine Comics
ダイヤのA
エース
寺嶋裕二
Yuji Terajima
Ace of Diamond

SO AS TO GET STRONGER, NO MATHER HOW WE TRAVEL, BE IT BY SHINKANSEN OUR BY BUS, OUR CLUB MEMBERS ALWAYS REMAINED TOGETHER; BUT IT MAKES ME REALLY DEPRESSED (CRIES)...

—TERAJIMA YUUJI

34
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA

片岡鉄心
部員達を心から信頼し、時には熱く、そして厳しく指導する鬼監督。
ピッチャー
沢村栄純
出所の見えないクセ球(ムービングボール)が持ち味。折れない「ハートの強さ」が長所。一年生。
セカンド
小湊春市
秀逸なバットコントロールで高打率を保持。小湊亮介は兄。一年生。
ピッチャー
降谷暁
剛速球が武器の投手で打撃力も怪物クラス。持久力に課題あり。一年生。
キャッチャー
御幸一也
投手の才能を引き出せる天才捕手。稲実・成宮に誘われた過去も。二年生。
青道高校

前園 健太

御幸とともにチームを引っ張る兄貴的存在。長打力に自信あり。二年生。

白州 健二郎

無口で控えめな性格で攻守とも堅実。川上とは親友。二年生。

倉持 洋一

沢村と同室。沢村をイジメるのが好き。守備力と走力が高い。二年生。

川上 憲史

リリーフ経験豊富な抑えの投手。気の弱いところがある。二年生。

金丸 信二

沢村と同じクラスで勉強などフォローする。レギュラー入りを狙う。一年生。

東条 秀明

元投手だったが、生き残るため外野手に。打撃センスあり。一年生。

樋笠 昭二

スキンヘッドが特徴。コンスタントに結果を残し、正三塁手に。二年生。

麻生 尊

残り2つの外野手レギュラーの枠を関直道と争う。二年生。

落合 博光

名門校より赴任してきた新コーチ。現在は、選手の特性を見極め中。

Chapter 293 / The Path We Treaded and The Path to the Future

Chapter 294 / Withdrawal

Chapter 295 / Is That Really True?

Chapter 296 / Advance and Aim High

Chapter 297 / Still Not Enough

Chapter 298 / The Devil's Whisper?

Chapter 299 / Stopgap Weapon

Chapter 300 / Original

Chapter 301 / Impromptu Performance

●週刊少年マガジン2012年第31号～第40号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは
一切関係ありません。

CONTENTS

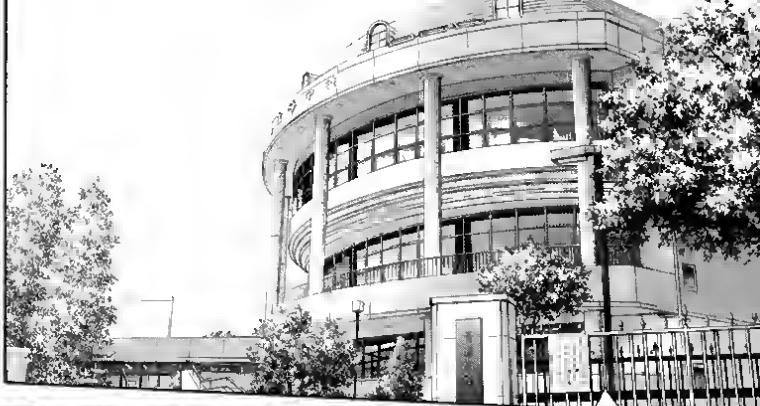
Chapter 293 / The Path We Treaded and The Path to the Future

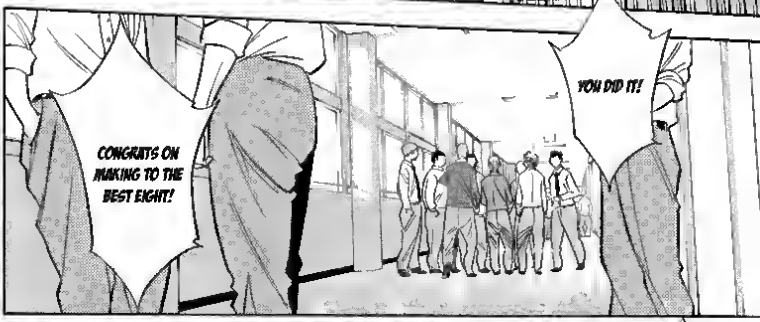
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
DURING DEFENSE?
...

DURING THE 5TH INNING, WHEN I WAS HEADING TOWARDS FIRST BASE
I ONLY FELT A LITTLE DISCOMFORT
YOU... YOU WERE SERIOUSLY PITCHING THROUGH EIGHT INNINGS WITH AN ACHING FOOT?
EVEN SO, YOU LOOKED FINE DURING THE ENDGAME!!
YOU WERE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT, ALTHOUGH
THAT WAS THE INNING WHEN YOU TOOK MY ADVICE!
I WAS ONLY THINKING OF PITCHING CAREFULLY
YOU GOT AGITATED AND THE ADRENALINE STARTED POURING IN
IT MIGHT BECOME SWOLLEN BY TOMORROW
YOU SPOTTED IT REALLY WELL
THAT'S BECAUSE THE BODY TENDS TO TILT WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG
THIS GUY...

HEY, I'M FINE
I DON'T INTEND TO TAKE A BREAK FROM PRACTICE JUST BECAUSE OF THIS
I HAVE A FEELING IT WILL GET BETTER IF I GET A GOOD NIGHT SLEEP
"A FEELING" ISN'T GOING TO CUT IT!
NOT A CHANCE!
I'M TELLING THE CLUB CHIEF SO YOU CAN GO TO THE HOSPITAL
ER... I MEAN

OUR FIRST CONCERN SHOULD BE TO NOT LET THIS TURN INTO A SERIOUS INJURY
YOU'RE OUR ACE
YOU'VE BECOME A NECESSARY EXISTANCE TO OUR TEAM
THAT CAN BE FIXED JUST WITH SPIT!
SAWAMURA, CAN YOU LEAVE ALREADY?
THERE WILL BE AN INJECTION RIGHT?




YOU DID IT!
CONGRATS ON MAKING TO THE BEST EIGHT!

THIS IS JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, BUT I KNOW A GUY IN OUR CLASS WHO HAS A GIRLFRIEND THAT CAN HOOK YOU UP
REMEMBER, THIS ISN'T A SHAME
THAT SURE SOUNDS NICE!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO THE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP, RIGHT?
YOU'RE THE SAME AS US, LAST YEAR!
I KNOW THAT FEELING
IT'S FINE, EVEN IF YOU SHAME!

HOW PATHETIC, NARUMIYAAAAA!
UWAHAHAHAHAH
YOU USED ALL YOUR LUCK AT KOUSHIEN!
I THINK IT'S FOR THE BETTER. BUT...
YOU GUYS WANTED TO FACE THEM, RIGHT?
INAJITSU GETTING ELIMINATED WAS A REAL SURPRISE, THOUGH
EVEN BEING STRAIGHT!

YESTERDAY WE EXPERIENCED THAT FEELING FIRST-HAND
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT THERE'S NO EASY OPPONENT

SAWAMURA TOTALLY SHUTTED THEM DOWN, IN THAT LAST INNING
the first kick for a reliever
WE'VE GOTTEN USED TO THAT IDEA RECENTLY
IT LOOKED LIKE THE ENDGAME WAS REALLY SOMETHING

Seriously? his arm's gone hurt?
YEAH, HE SAID THAT IT'S NO BIG DEAL, BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, THEY WENT TO THE HOSPITAL
THE ONLY THING LEFT TOW ORRY ABOUT IS FURUYA, RIGHT?

HE HAS A HABIT OF SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT
ISN'T IT GOOD THAT IT WAS NOTICED EARLY?
WITHDRAWING HIS ACE STATUS IS GOING TO HURT...
SPORTS

BUT EVEN THOUGH IT HAS BEEN A SERIES OF MATCHES LATELY, THERE'S ONLY TWO WEEKS UNTIL THE FINALS
EH? WHAT YOU MEAN BY INJECTION?

WE'RE GOING TO DIE IF TAKES ANOTHER THREE YEARS!!
FOR HOW LONG HASN'T THEY GONE TO KOUSHIEN?
OUYA?
WHO'S THE NEXT OPONENT?
AH! TETSU -SAN
DID MASUKO -SAN GET FATTER?
WELL, YOU BETTER SHOW YOUR FACES IN TRAINING!
WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER GAME AFTER IT?
FOR THIS?
AH, NO, FOR SHOGI...
definitely not for shogi
IT'S ALRIGHT IF WE TALK FOR A BIT DURING LUNCH BREAK?

WELL, THEY ARE A BIT HARD TO GET INTO BUT...
IT GETS GOOD AFTER VOLUME TEN
JUST READ IT ALREADY!
EHH? WHAT ABOUT THE ONES BEFORE IT?
SAWAMURA, DID YOU READ THIS ONE?

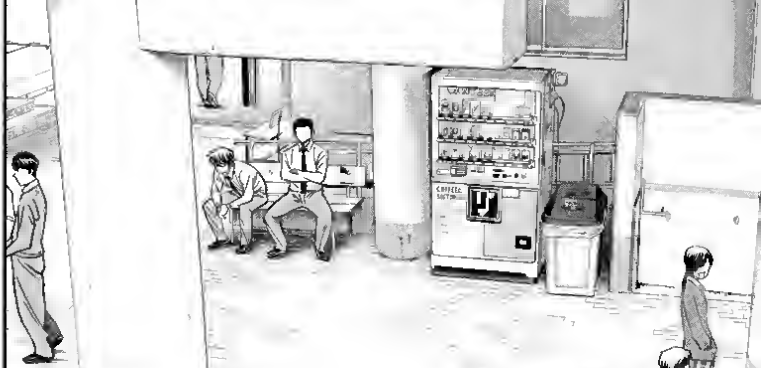
THE MANGA GROUP IS GROWING AGAIN...

TCH!
HE'S GETTING FULL OF HIMSELF

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I WILL BE USED AS A STARTING MEMBER AGAIN
IF I CAN'T CONSISTENTLY SHOW RESULTS IN GAMES IN THE FUTURE

it's easy for you to say, since you're already ahead!
what's important is to get the grip of the story

RIGHT!
COOL?
RIGHT!
amazing
oh? kudou and townou?
tell me more about it~
AH, JUN.
I HEARD ABOUT IT
HEY ZONO!
HEH
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND MIYUKI GOT INTO A FIGHT



SO, IT'S ABOUT WATANABE

I SHOULDN'T IMPOSE MY THOUGHTS ON MY COMRADES
THAT'S WHAT ZONO TOLD ME
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T GET WHAT HE IS TRYING TO SAY BUT
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING HERE IS DEFINITELY THE FEELINGS OF THE PERSON HIMSELF
IF HE DIDN'T LIKE WHAT I SAID HE COULD HAVE JUST SAID SO

EVEN THOUGH I'M THE CAPTAIN...
I WANT TO STAND BY MY OPINIONS, YOU KNOW?
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
OR, SHOULD I SAY THAT, I DON'T WANT TO BE SO FIXATED ON ACTING LIKE A CAPTAIN
WHY DON'T YOU QUIT ON BEING THE CAPTAIN?

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THE WILL OF THE PERSON HIMSELF, RIGHT?

TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU, THAT APPEARED ON GAMES AS A PLAYER FROM THE DAY YOU ENROLLED
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT YOU HAD TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF THE TEAM OUT OF THE BLUE. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THAT FEEL JUST AS HEAVY...
LIKE HAVING EVERYBODY COUNTING ON YOU
EH... NO THAT'S NOT

IF I DIDN'T THINK I HAD THE CONFIDENCE THAT I COULD DO IT, I WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE COACH AND REJECTED THE POSITION
EH?
SINCE I WASN'T EXPECTING THE STAFF TO DEPEND ON ME SO MUCH...
I WAS COMPLETELY DESPERATE EVERYDAY
YOU CAN PULL THIS TEAM TOGETHER WITH YOUR PLAYS
I'M NOT SAYING YOU SHOULD UNIFY THE NUMEROUS MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM ABLY
CONSIDERING THAT YOU WERE ALREADY THE PERSON THAT LEAD THE PITCHERS YOU ALREADY HAD A BIG BURDEN
AS SUCH, I DIDN'T THINK YOU YOU WOULD BE A GOOD MATCH FOR THE PRESSURE OF BEING THE FOCUS OF THE WHOLE TEAM

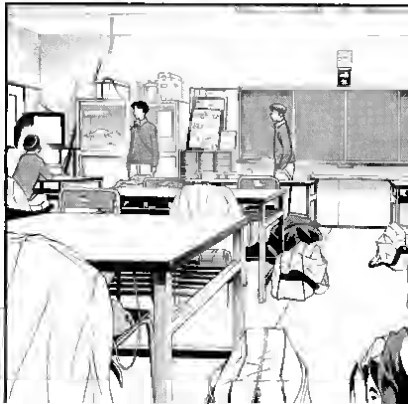
EVEN SO, I RECOMMENDED YOU AS THE NEXT CAPTAIN...
BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU COULD MAKE THE TEAM STRONGER

COME WHENEVER YOU WANT!
WHAT I SAID WASN'T ANYTHING BIG, BUT I'LL ALWAYS LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY
TETSU-SA
WHAT'S THAT?
I CAN'T PLAY BLIND SHOGI YOU KNOW?
PAWN MOVES ONE SPACE

OOYA METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL
OOTA DISTRICT

83RD NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
BASEBALL PLAYERS' COMMEMORATION
OOYA METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL
EAST TOKYO TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
-
KOUSHIEN FIRST APPEARANCE
PASSION -- FIGHTING SPIRIT -- TRUST

GOU-CHAN
DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?



HUH?
PRAISE MY PERCEPTION! PRAISE MY POWERS OF OBSERVATION!
I'VE CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF IT WHEN I WAS AT THE STADIUM
OUYA HIGH SCHOOL ACE
WAKABAYASHI GOU
THIS PITCHER IS ALREADY BROKEN!!
EDIT: ACES SHOULDN'T BE MUSHROOMS

THANKS AGAIN TO POTATOTOTOTO (4X "TO") FOR THE CHINESE RAW OF THE AUTHOR'S LIFE SNIPPETS, AND THANKS MEI, FROM MOUSTACHE SCANS, FOR THE CHINESE TRANSLATION!

—KALLAMEZ

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

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TL: HISA-HISA

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TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALLAMEZ

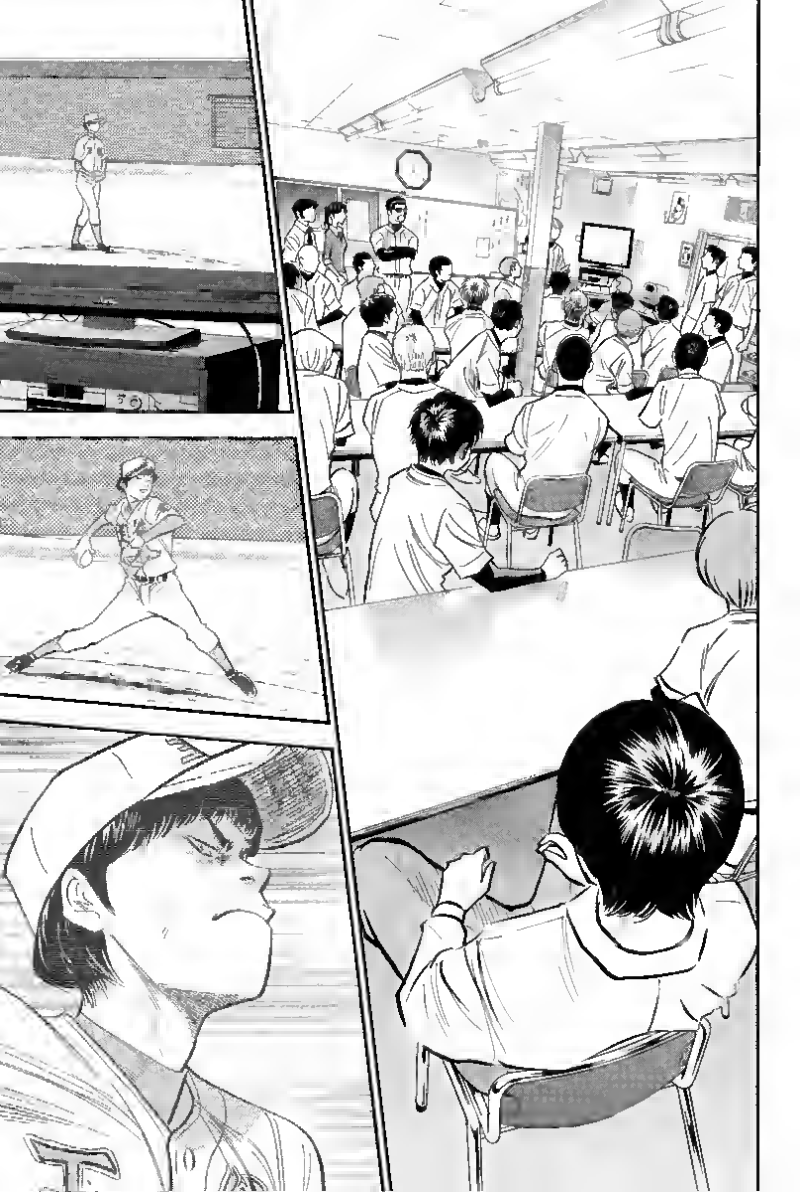
IT'S TIME TO BUCKLE-UP, MOTHEFUCKER. IT'S TIME FOR US TO PUT ON OMR BIG BOYS' PANTS, AND DO WHAT WE GOTTA DO TO GO TO THE POST-SEASON.

O'S TO OCTOBER!

WE'RE BACK

HOW DID IT GO?

Chapter 294 / Withdrawal



OUYA METROPOLITAN'S ACE
WAKABAYASHI GOU

AND HE DOESN'T HOLD BACK EITHER
HE'LL THROW IT AT ANY KIND OF BATTER

RECENTLY, HE HAS BECOME A PITCHER WHOSE MAIN WEAPON IS THE UNUSUAL FORKBALL

HE WILL CONTINUOUSLY USE THE FORKBALL TO RAISE THE COUNT
HE ALSO HAS A FAST TEMPO
THERE IS NO TIME TO GET PREPARED AT THE BATTER'S BOX
RIGHT!!
HIS ONLY PITCH IS THE FORKBALL!
AND 5TH BATTER, YAMAZATO BOTH REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION
THE BATTING LINEUP LINCHPINS, FIRST BASEMAN, KASUGA.
THE ONLY THING LEFT IS TO DO IS TO PLAN OUR DEFENSE
IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF WE LOOK THOROUGHLY AT THE DATA HERE
THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE POWERFULL HITTERS BUT THEY SEEM LIKE THE TYPE OF BATTER THAT CONSISTENTLY HIT THE BALLS WITH LINE HITS
ONCE THEY START TO CONNECT, THEY WILL BECOME A ANNOYING LINEUP

DEFENSE! OFFENSE! BASERUNNING!
OVERWHELM THE OPPONENT WITH EVERY THING YOU GOT!
THIS ISN'T, BY ANY MEANS, AN OPPONENT WE CAN GET CARELESS ABOUT
HOWEVER, THE THINGS WE HAVE TO DO HAVEN'T CHANGED!
AFTER WHICH, THERE IS THE MATTER OF FURUYA'S FOOT CONDITION
YES SIR!

A FIRST DEGREE ANKLE COLLATERAL LIGAMENT INJURY
IT SEEMS THAT HE WILL BE HAVE TO REST FOR ONE TO TWO WEEKS

I THOUGHT HE REDUCED THE EXCESS OF POWER DURING THE ENDGAME, BUT THE SOURCE OF DAMAGE WAS UNEXPECTEDLY...

I'M STARTING TO LOSE FAITH IN MYSELF...
I WAS THE CLOSEST AND I DIDN'T SEE IT
WELL SEEN, YOU TWO
I THINK FURUYA HIMSELF KNOWS HE WENT OVERBOARD... IT WAS REALLY GOOD THAT THEY NOTICED IT EARLY
WE MUST THINK THINK OF FIGHTING THE NEXT SEMI-FINAL WITHOUT FURUYA
THEY'RE GOING TO CHECK ON HIS SITUATION IN TWO OR THREE DAYS
FROM NOW ON, PREPARE FOR THAT

TO ME!
LEAVE IT ALL TO ME!
I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL
EVEN WELL, TOUGH SHIT, ETC. 3.

PRACTICE HITTING AFTER YOUR BREAK
YES SIR!
INFIELDERS WILL AIM FOR THE RUNNERS LIKE THAT

THE DATA YOU TOOK FROM OUYA TODAY WAS PERFECT
I'M REALLY GLAD I ENTRUSTED THIS TO YOU

AH! NAIBE!

THANK YOU
I'M GLAD I CAN BE USEFUL TO THE TEAM, EVEN IF ONLY A LITTLE

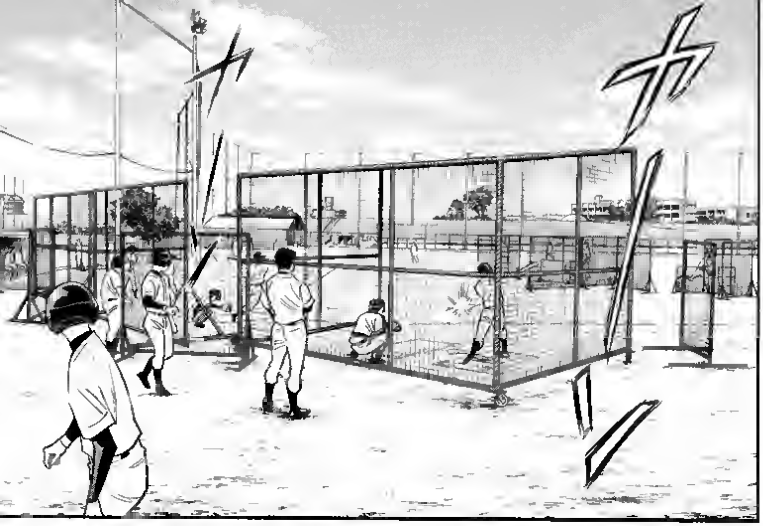
NO, BUT IF I DON'T ASSEMBLE DATA ON THE BATTERS FROM NOW ON...
SO...SO DEPENDABLE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
IT'S MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE

I HEARD ABOUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND MIYUKI GOT INTO A FIGHT
...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT WHAT MIYUKI SAID WAS TOO MUCH
OOHHH?
EH?
WHEN YOU WERE CHOSEN AS THE VICE-CAPTAIN DIDN'T THE COACH TELL YOU SOMETHING?
AND? WHAT DID YOU DO?
DID YOU JUST VENT OUT YOUR ANGER?

13
CAN YOU TWO SUPPORT MIYUKI?
THE BURDEN MIYUKI BEARS WILL BECOME HEAVIER FROM NOW ON
ANYONE CAN SAY SOMETHING LIKE "I DON'T LIKE IT"
THINKING OF WAYS ON HOW TO IMPROVE FROM THERE, TOGETHER, IS YOUR DUTY TOO
DON'T JUST IMPOSE ANYTHING YOU FEEL LIKE IT ON THE CAPTAIN

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...
UGH...
NOT EVEN A SINGLE WORD

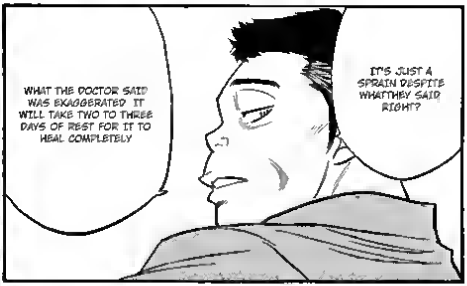
OOH!
YOU'RE SWINGING A LOT CAPTAIN!
YOUR BATTING IS IN PERFECT SHAPE!
I'M SWINGING WITH EASE!!



EVEN THOUGH IF IT WAS FINE FOR YOU NOT COME WATCH PRACTICE
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH

TWITCH
TWITCH

YOU'LL PROBABLY MAKE BY THE GAME IN THE WEEKEND
カーン


WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID WAS EXAGGERATED IT WILL TAKE TWO TO THREE DAYS OF REST FOR IT TO HEAL COMPLETELY
IT'S JUST A SPRAIN DESPITE WHATTHEY SAID RIGHT?

EDNA 2ND PEOPLE SAWAMURA IS TUMB

TALK THE TALK! WALK THE WALK!
I WANT TO BE A MAN OF ACTION!
just run and shut up

HE WAS ECLIPSED BY SAWAMURA'S SUDDEN START IN TWO DAYS...
HE OFFERED HIMSELF TO PITCH DURING THE BREAK...
YOU SURE ARE FIRED UP, AREN'T YOU, NORI?

TWENTY MORE!
LAST TEN!

WE'RE INBETWEEN GAMES, SO HIT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT

HOW LONG ARE THOSE TWO GOING TO KEEP THAT UP?
s it good?
yeah, that was a good throw

LIKE, IT'S BAD IF HE'S FORCING YOU TO DO STUFF AS SOME KIND OF MANAGER!
IF THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND JUST SAY IT!

HEY NABE
YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE TASK MIYUKI ENTRUSTED YOU WITH, YOU CAN REFUSE, RIGHT?
HUH?

YOU CAN TALK ABOUT IT WITH ME ANY TIME!
NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR COMPLAINTS
EH?!
IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
NO WAY! I mean...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN, NEVERMIND HAHA!

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: AOMADARA

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: CLOWNKING

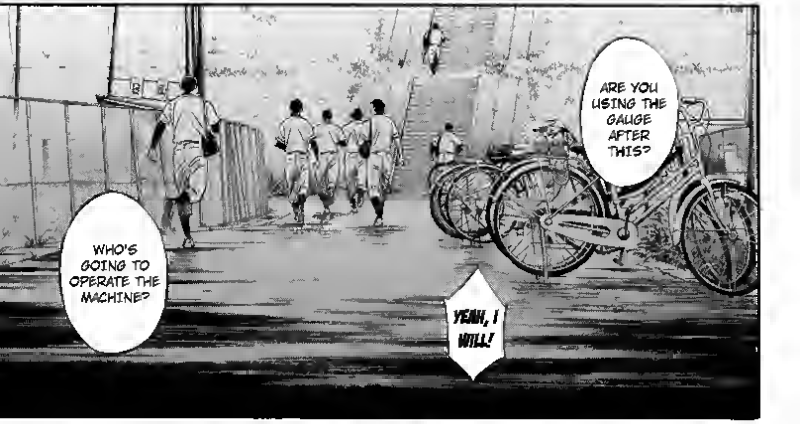
RD: CLOWNKING

TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALLAMEZ

SORRY FOR THE DELAY EVERYBODY, BUT, ALAS, HERE IS THE CHAPTER. ALSO, TAKE MY ADVICE. DO NOT PLAY THREE CONSECUTIVE MATCHES WITH EXTRA INNINGS IN THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS. IT DESTROYS YOUR BODY, NUMBS YOUR MIND AND CRUSHES YOUR SOUL. (´Д｀。)

ダイヤのA


ARE YOU USING THE GAUGE AFTER THIS?
WHO'S GOING TO OPERATE THE MACHINE?
YEAH, I WILL!

OF COURSE! I HAVE PITCHED FOR TWO STRAIGHT DAYS ALREADY! IF I DON'T REST MY SHOULDERS...
SAWAMURA, YOU DIDN'T SAY "LET ME PITCH" TODAY...

Chapter 295 // Is That Really True?

He's going to kill him.
IS... IS HE ANGRY?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY!
THAT'S WHY, TODAY, I'M GOING TO SLEEP LIKE A BABY!

SINCE WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TOURNAMENT, THEY ARE FOCUSING ON THE KEY ASPECTS
THE FIRST AND SECOND YEARS COMBINED SUM UP TO FIFTY-NINE MEMBERS
ONCE THE NEWCOMERS JOIN IT'S GOING TO REACH NEAR A HUNDRED MEMBERS
TODAY'S TRAINING LASTED FOR THREE HOURS AND FIFTEEN MINUTES, HUH?
18:39
WHAT'S FOR DINNER!?
THIS CLUB DEFINITELY HAS TOO MANY PEOPLE....
IN THE SHORT TIMESPAN OF TWO AND A HALF YEARS...
OF THOSE THAT PROPERLY TRAIN THEIR TECHNIQUE, ENDURANCE AND MENTAL STRENGTH, ONLY A FEW ARE DESIRABLE

AS LONG AS THERE WERE NO HUGE OBSTACLES, I WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS EVEN IF I DIDN'T GET A STEADY INFLUX OF NEWCOMERS...
IF I WERE THE COACH, WITH ONE SCHOOL YEAR OF ONLY TWENTY PEOPLE...
EVEN IF THEY CALL IT "STUDENTS' BASEBALL", THE PLAYERS ARE ON A STAND POINT TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THINGS LIKE MERIT AND RESULTS
AS PLAYERS, THERE IS NO TIME TO LOOK AFTER THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO SPROUT THEIR TALENT

カ
tak
tak
Doesn't run slowly..
7th batter, Izou (Batting Right)
Hits towards right field. Very good
:wareness
Keeps hitting near the foreside
~th batter, Maki (Batting Left)
Watch out for safety bunts

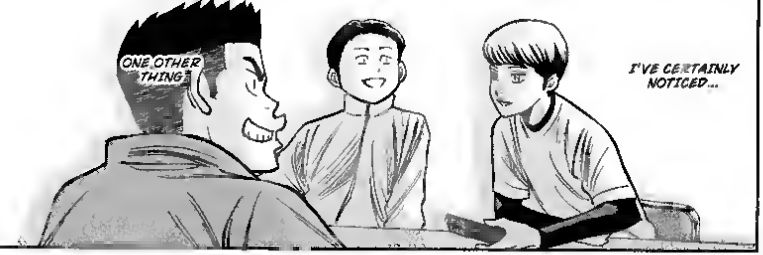
YOU'RE STILL AT IT?
DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?
NO WAY!!
I THINK
I THINK OUR OPONENT CAN DECIPHER SIGNS
WOAH!
IT'S AMAZING WHAT A METROPOLITAN SCHOOL, THAT HAS ALWAYS GONE TO KOUSHIEN, CAN DO ...
SINCE THEY STARTED TO RECKLESSLY CHALLENGE THEIR OPPONENT IN THE ENDGAME
THEY MAY HAVE SOMEONE THAT SPECIALIZES IN READING SIGNS

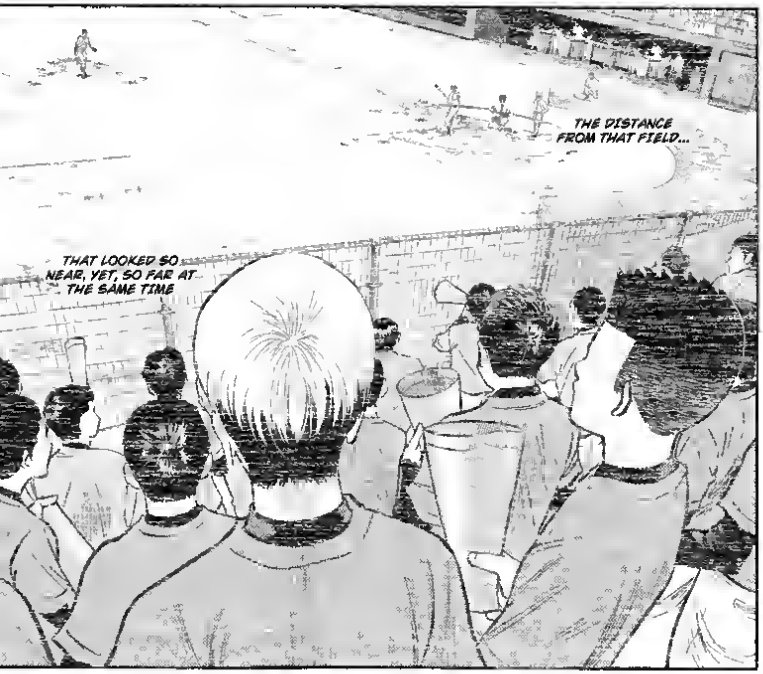
YEAH, BUT THEY ARE PROBABLY ASSUMING THAT FURUYA WILL BE PITCHING
THEY MAY GET THROWN OFF IF IT'S EITHER SAWAMURA'S OR NORI'S PITCHES
YOU LOOK HAPPY, NABE
HUH?
BESIDES, IF IT BECOMES AN EXCHANGE OF HITS, I THINK OUR TEAM WILL COME OUT ON TOP
OUR DEFENSE IS TIGHTER THAN THEIRS AFTER ALL
WHEN YOU WERE WATCHING THE VIDEO, YOU HAD THESE EAGLE EYES!
HAHAHA! TOTALLY LIKE A SNIPER!
THAT'S BECAUSE, IF I LOOK AT THE TIMES I'VE BEEN RELIED ON BY THE TEAM.
I WOULD SAY THAT I'M VERY THANKFUL FOR THIS DUTY

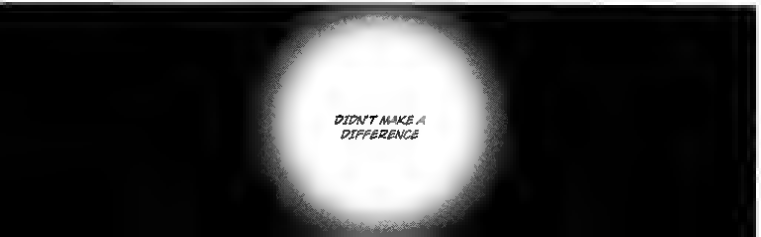
DURING THE UGUMORI MATCH...
MIYUKI LOOKED TOWARDS THE BLEACHERS AND APOLOGIZED

I WAS REALLY HAPPY AT THAT TIME
I FELT LIKE I WAS PART OF THE TEAM

ON THE OTHER HAND...
THANKS
ALRIGHT, SHOULD WE HELP YOU TOO?
LET'S WORK FOR SOME SIGNALS


ONE OTHER THING...
I'VE CERTAINLY NOTICED...


THE DISTANCE FROM THAT FIELD...
THAT LOOKED SO NEAR, YET, SO FAR AT THE SAME TIME


DIDN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE

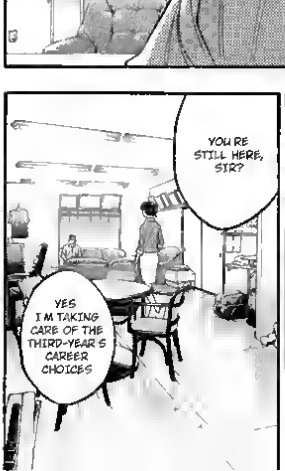
IT'S MY LOSS, SO I'M GOING AHEAD!
OKAY!
YOU'RE PERSISTENT TODAY!

YOU'RE LACKING AS THE 3RD BATTER...
FOR SOMEONE THAT HITS WELL
YOU DIDN'T GET A SINGLE HIT AGAINST HOUMORI
phew
WHY DO I USE A WOODEN BAT?
HUH?
when did he get there?

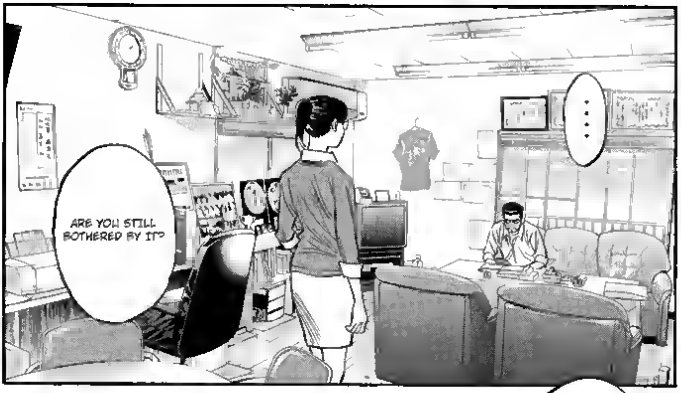
EVEN IF YOU HAVE GOOD CONTACT IF THE BALL DOESN'T FALL BETWEEN FIELDERS IT'S A FAILED HIT IN THE END, RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WELL YOU'RE AT FIELDING IF YOU CAN ONLY DO THAT WELL
IT'S VERY WORRYING
YOU SIMPLY DON'T HAVE THAT POWER
THE KIND OF POWER NEEDED TO ONLY USE WOODEN BATS

STOP PUSHING YOURSELF TO THE LIMIT ALREADY
AS LONG AS YOU'RE SO OBSESSED WITH THE WOODEN BAT... I WON'T USE YOU IN GAMES
NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS A GREAT BATTING SENSE COMPARED TO MAEZONO
AFTER THIS, THE ONES I WANT TO GIVE A PIECE OF MY WISDOM ARE KURAMOCHI AND SHIRASU
AND, AFTER THAT, THERE IS ALSO THE CAPTAIN

A RATIONAL DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN AN OPTIMISTIC ARGUMENT
I'LL GET ALONG SURPRISINGLY WELL WITH THOSE PEOPLE


YES I'M TAKING CARE OF THE THIRD-YEAR'S CAREER CHOICES

YOU'RE STILL HERE, SIR?

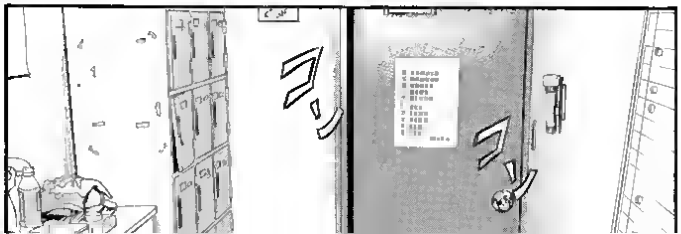

ARE YOU STILL BOTHERED BY IT?
...

I FIND HAPPINESS IN TEACHING THINGS LIKE THESE
THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN THEY'LL REALIZE IT'S FUTILE, EVEN IF THEY DO THEIR BEST
ABOUT WHAT COACH OCHIAI SAID?

THE ONES WHO MAKE A FUSS THE MOST OVER THINGS LIKE POSITIONS AND RESULTS ARE THE PLAYERS WHO ARE FIGHTING
THAT WILL DEFINITELY BE TRUE
COACH OCHIAI HAS MADE HIS PLAN VERY CLEAR
HE HAS ALSO SAID HE'S GOING TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF EXAMINEES IN THE NEXT NEWCOMERS CLUB APPLICATIONS
COACH KATAOKA!

...

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO AFTER RESIGNING?
COACH KATAOKA, YOU'RE STILL A LICENSED TEACHER HERE
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO HE IS. LETTING IT STAY LIKE THIS IS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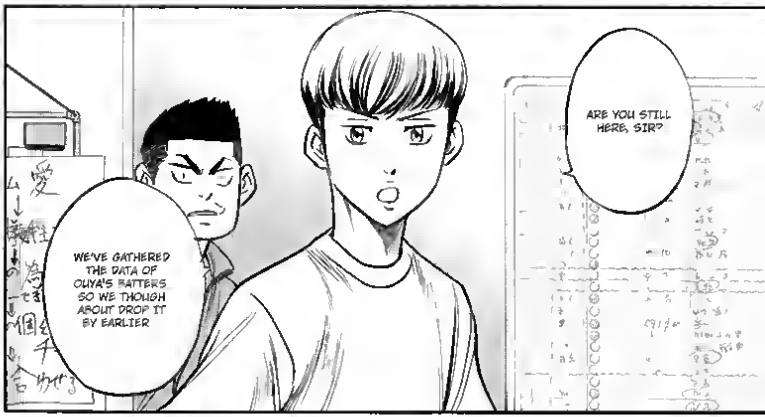
EXCUSE US
ガチャ


ARE YOU STILL HERE, SIR?
WE'VE GATHERED THE DATA OF OLIYA'S BATTERS SO WE THOUGH ABOUT DROP IT BY EARLIER

THANK YOU AS ALWAYS
YOU'VE REALLY HELPED US IN THE UGUMORI MATCH AS WELL

WATANABE

NO NEED IT WAS CONFUSING AT FIRST
BUT I'M HAPPY I CAN BE HELPFUL TO THE TEAM
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORK BEHIND THE SCENES
I WONDER IF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE TEAM AS A MANGER SOONER
....

IS THAT REALLY TRUE WATANABE?

DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT?

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: AOMADARA

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: CLOWNKING

RD: CLOWNKING

TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALLAMEZ

KATAOKA IS BEST COACH.
FROG-FACE NEED NOT APPLY

Chapter 296 / Advance and Aim High

青心寮
SFX CLUNK
YES
PLEASE EXCUSE US
GOOD NIGHT
PHEW
HAAAA

NO WAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN!
OH MAN, THAT WAS SCARY!
THE COACH'S EYES LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO POP OUT!
If you looked closer at those
YEAH, BUT I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO SAY WHAT WE WANTED
I WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT US
ABOUT THEM WANTING TO BECOME MANAGERS SO SUDDENLY
I WAS SURPRISED
YEAH...

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS NO EXCUSE
EVEN THOUGH THEY OVERCAME THE HARSH TRAINING EVERYDAY...
NOT EVERYONE CAN BE USED IN A GAME

INDEED
AND THEY DILIGENTLY WENT ALONG, EVEN WITH THAT WAVERING INDECISION

DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT?
EVEN SO IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO CHOOSE TO BECOME A MANAGER HERE
WE STILL CAN'T KNOW HOW FAR THEY WILL GO BUT THAT'S JUST MY OPINION

YES
I WOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT SO LIGHTLY

WHEN SUMMER VACATION HAD BEGUN AND A NEW TEAM FIGHTING POWER WAS ASSEMBLED
RATHER THAN ENTHUSIASM
I HAD A DIFFERENT FEELING WHEN WE WERE PLACED ON THE TEAM
"IS IT ALRIGHT FOR US TO BE ON THE TEAM?"
I CERTAINLY HAD THAT KIND OF THOUGHT
IF WE CAN SUPPORT THE TEAM...
WE'LL GLADLY DO ANYTHING EVEN BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK

YE...
YES!
DO THE TWO OF YOU THINK THE SAME WAY?
FOR THE TEAM'S SAKE
SINCE WE CAN HELP CARE FOR EVERYONE'S BODIES...
WE WOULD BE MORE LIKE TRAINERS THAN MANAGERS
INDEED, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SWITCH FROM PLAYERS TO MANAGERS
HOWEVER...
THEY WOULD GO THAT FAR...?

WHEN THAT HAPPENS IT'S DUE TO FAILURES AND WOUNDS
AND PEOPLE WHO CAN'T CONTINUE BEING PLAYERS EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO
HUH?
SHOW ME YOUR HANDS
YOUR PLANS

THESE SHOW A LACK OF PRACTICE SWINGS
THESE CALLUSES ARE SMALL AND SMOOTH

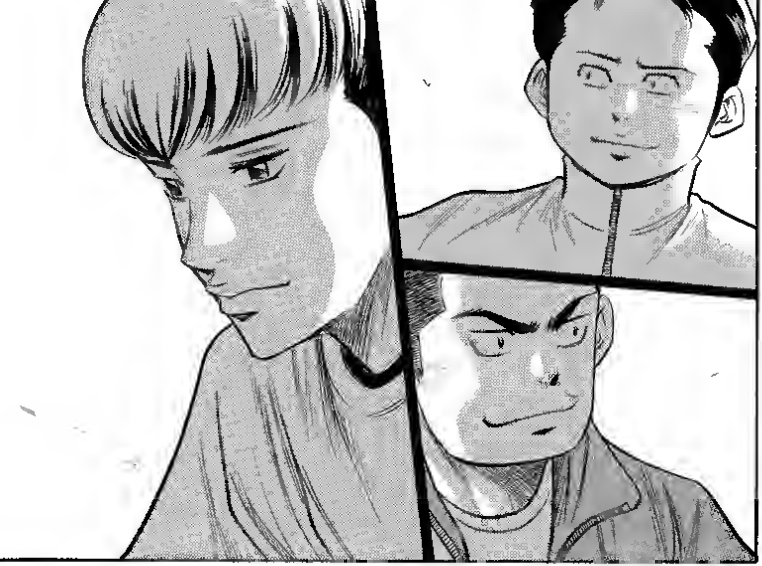
BUT THESE SMALL NEW BLISTERS
SHOW THAT YOU SWING A BAT EVERY DAY
N—NO THAT'S FROM ALL THE SWINGING WE DID SINCE WE JOINED
WE'VE SINCE STOPPED SOMEWHAT
IF YOU THREE WANT TO BECOME MANAGERS, THEN WHY ARE YOU STILL SWINGING A BAT?
IS THAT FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM AS WELL?

THEN THAT MEANS YOU'RE SWINGING FOR YOUR OWN SAKES
JUST A LITTLE MORE...
IF THE FLAME HERE IS STILL BURNING. EVEN IF ONLY A LITTLE DON'T GIVE UP
ぐっ

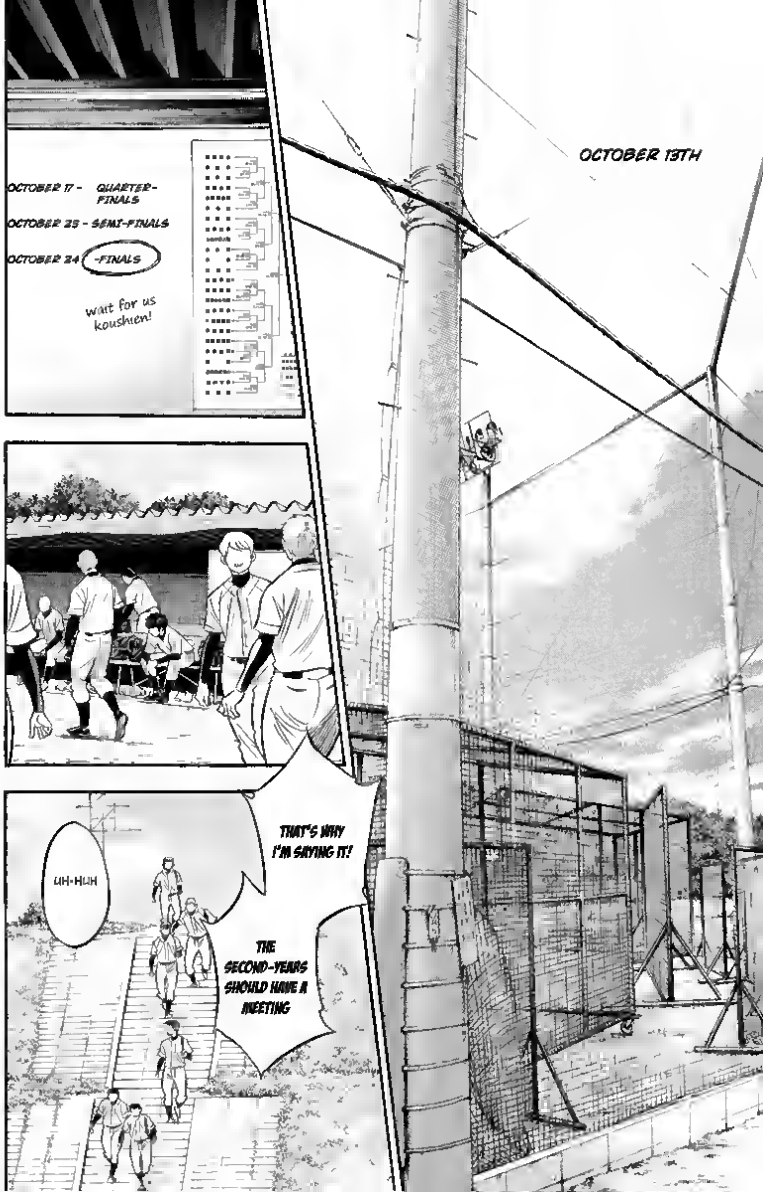
KEEP SWINGING!
NOT FOR THE TEAM'S SAKE
EVEN ONE SWING
SWING FRANTICALLY

BUT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE!

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING
HONESTLY, I WAS ONLY SELF-CONSCIOUS OF EVERYONE AROUND ME AND STARTED SWINGING A BAT
IT BECAME A SOMEWHAT WEIRD FEELING FROM THERE ON...
SINCE EVERYONE COULD DO SO MUCH
BUT WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT OUR PRACTICE SWINGS WEREN'T ENOUGH
HAHA!
WE HAD TO DO EVEN MORE



チームの為だじゃなく
NOT FOR THE TEAM'S SAKE
自分の為に——
BUT FOR OUR OWN SAKES


OCTOBER 17 - QUARTER-FINALS
OCTOBER 23 - SEMI-FINALS
OCTOBER 24 -FINALS
wait for us koushien!
OCTOBER 13TH
THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING IT!
THE SECOND-YEARS SHOULD HAVE A MEETING
HUH-HUH

WE SHOULD FACE THE REGULAR MEMBERS AND SAY WHAT WE COULDN'T SAY NORMALLY!!
YOU MEAN, LIKE, BAD-MOUTHING THEM UPFRONT?
WE SHOULD STATE OUR TRUE OPINIONS!!
NOT BAD-MOUTHING! OUR TRUE OPINIONS!!
YOU'RE SCARY!!
I THINK A MEETING WITH ONLY THE SECOND-YEARS IS FINE
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS SUGGESTION, KURAMOCHI? I HAVEN'T SLEPT THINKING ABOUT IT YESTERDAY!!
SEE!?
MIYUKI, I'M SORRY FOR ONLY CRITICIZING YOU UP UNTIL NOW!
FROM NOW ON, WE CAN THINK ABOUT THINGS TOGETHER!
WHAT'S THAT PAUSE FOR?
I HOPE YOU MEAN YOU WON'T FIGHT WITH ME ANYMORE

UHM... HERE
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU'RE IN SOME KIND OF FIGHT, SO IT WAS REALLY HARD TO BUTT IN TO GIVE THIS, BUT WE'VE GATHERD THE BATTERS DATA
NABE!

INDEED, THESE GUYS WILL JUST KEEP SWINGING
LOOKING AT THIS, THE BATTERS SEEM VERY STRONG
THEY CAN HIT ANY KIND OF FASTBALL

THANKS, NABE!
they probably heard about our secret meeting
you're too lou... that was a secret

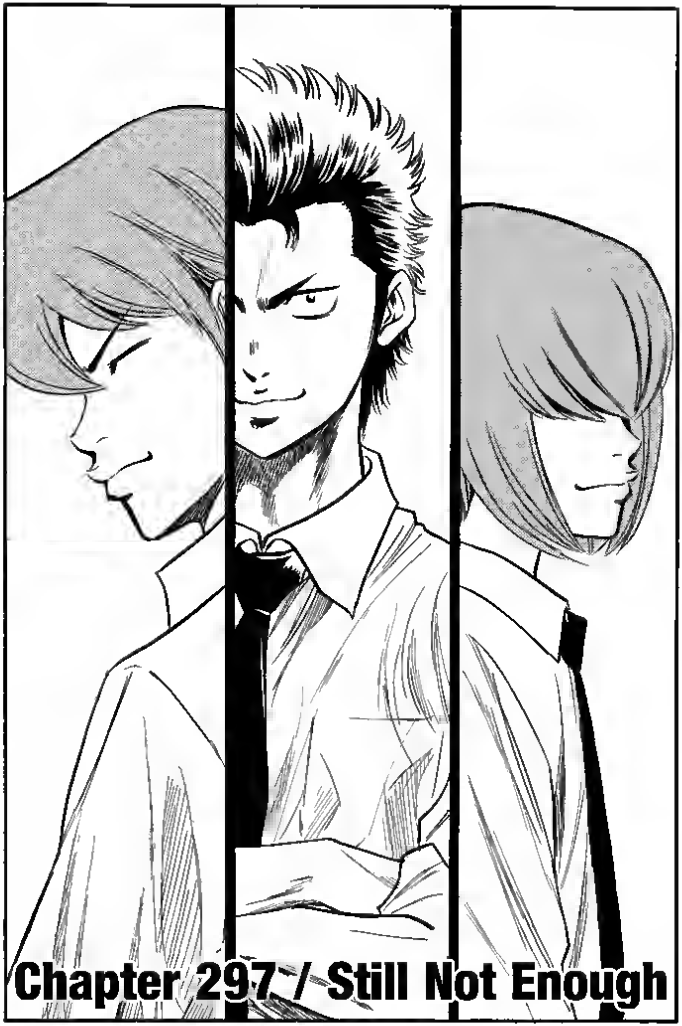
YOU SHOULD HAVE A LOOK AT IT TOO, ZONO. RIGHT BATTERS CAN GET GOOD FULL HITS
AH... YEAH!

HUH?
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE MADE A LOT OF PEOPLE WORRY
BUT IT'S ALRIGHT
NO NO I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT GATHERING DATA
I MEANT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF QUITTING THE TEAM
YOU WERE ACTING ALL ALONG!
I DID! NO SUCH THING
INDEPENDENTLY OF HOW LONG THEY FIGHT, THIS TEAM HAS LESS THAN AN YEAR TOGETHER REMAINING...
SO, LET'S HAND THIS TO EVERYONE

WE'LL HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING ...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, FOR BOTH THE TEAM AND FOR OURSELVES...
I OWE IT TO MY FANS!!

EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE DAY I'LL BE PITCHING INTENSELY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
HEY! YOU'RE TOO SLOW, SECOND-YEARS!

HEY, HEY, FURUYA WHY YOU CHANGE!? INTO YOUR UNIFORM?
WE HAVE ONLY FOUR DAYS UNTIL THE NEXT GAME! ARE YOU GOING TO SLACK OFF!?
SHUT UP! WE ARE NOT SLACKING!



Chapter 297 / Still Not Enough

ALRIGHT, BRING IT ON!
TCH!
UWOOH!

SHUSH!
shuu!
THEY'RE BOTH GIVING THEIR ALL?
right?
BOTH OF THEM ARE REGARDED AS HALF-REGULARS
WHO WILL THE COACH CHOOSE AS THE STARTING MEMBER IN THE NEXT GAME?

パァン
OK!
NICE PLAY!
NICE DUO!

ARE YOU HOLDING BACK ON ME?
KOMINATO
HUH?
ALRIGHT!
GIVEN OUR POSITIONS THERE WILL BE TIMES WHERE WE WILL HAVE TO EXPECT MORE OF EACH OTHER
AND WE ARE AT PRACTICE, SO, FIELD MORE AGGRESSIVELY
LET'S GO!
IT'S LIKE IN THE PREVIOUS MATCH...
WE ABSOLUTELY SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN A DOUBLE PLAY THEN

AT THAT TIME...
WITH RYOU-SAN ...
THAT TIME?

SAFE!
WHAT!?
ALRIGHT, BRING IT!
YOU SHOULD PLAY PUSHING YOURSELF TO THE LIMIT LIKE YOU USUALLY DID
SFX: BADUMP
THE WAY IT IS RIGHT NOW WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A DOUBLE PLAY THAT WE SHOULD'VE GOTTEN

WAS I A LITTLE TOO HARD ON HIM?
NO.. RYOU-SAN WAS WAY HARSHER WITH ME...
you're annoying me
do you intend on getting serious any time soon?
HE ALWAYS AIMED TO BE LIKE RYOU-SAN
I CAN UNDERSTAND KURAMOCHI'S UNSATISFACTION
I ALSO AIM TO BE LIKE RYOU-SAN
I WON'T ACCEPT HIM AS THE REGULAR, LIKE THIS

REALLY IS AMAZING...
MY BROTHER...
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS RETIRED, HE STILL STAND IN MY WAY AS A WALL
I WON'T LOSE
HUH?
I WILL ALSO AIM TO BE MORE LIKE HIM

I'VE CHECKED ON FURUYA'S CONDITION YESTERDAY AND TODAY AS WELL ...
AND HIS RECOVERY SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL

HOWEVER, IF HE PITCHED IN THE NEXT GAME, I FEAR HE WOULD OVEREXERT HIMSELF...
AS SUCH, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF USING HIM IN THE NEXT GAME
you're entitled to be angry!

THE SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS WILL BE PLAYED CONSECUTIVELY
THEREFORE, FOR THE SAKE OF YOU BEING AT YOUR BEST, I WANT YOU TO FOCUS ON RECOVERING NOW

THEN, WHO WILL THE STARTING PITCHER BE?

OUR OFFENSIVE POWER WILL DROP A LITTLE

NO FURUYA, HUH?

THE STARTING PITCHER FOR THIS SUNDAY WILL BE

SAWAMURA!
EDIE: WAS THERE ANY DOUBT?

Oh here it comes.
the annoying Sawamura!
WITH THE RECENTLY LEARNED OUTSIDE PITCH ACTING AS A LIFELINE...
AND THE SOMETIMES MOVING INSIDE PITCH ...
THIS MAN KNOWN AS SAWAMURA THANKS YOU FOR ACKNOWLEDGING HIS EXISTENCE!
ALRIGHT ALRIGHT CALM DOWN, NOW

EVEN THOUGH I THINK HE WILL GO THROUGH A BITTER EXPERIENCE SOON

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
HE HAS A MOMENTUM, SO I'M IN FAVOR OF HIM BEING THE STARTER
BUT, LETTING HIM GET CARRIED AWAY IS LIKE NOT HAMMERING A NAIL IN ITS PLACE

DON'T GET DEPRESSED
SAWAMURA WILL BE ABLE TO RELAX AND PITCH BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU GOT HIS BACK
THAT'S RIGHT YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PRESENCE
NORI...
BUT, IT'S A FACT THAT HE HAS MADE QUITE THE IMPRESSION AS A CLOSER IN SO MANY GAMES...
HEY, HEY
YO!... WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING?

ONLY THREE MORE GAMES UNTIL KOUSHIEN!
THIS IS OUR GENERATION'S MOMENT, SO, LET'S DO IT WITH A BANG!
WE SHOULD REALLY DO A SECOND-YEAR MEETING!
CAPTAIN!! IT'S AN INDIGNATION MEETING!!
GO TO THE BULLPEN TOMORROW, NORI!

IT'S NOT JUST NEXT GAME
YOUR POWER IS DEFINITELY IMPORTANT IN THE SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

LET'S BURST OUT THAT FRUSTRATION IN THE GAME!
you should only stretch today
no weight lifting
IN THE MIDDLE OF FURUYA'S SURVEILLANCE
AS EXPECTED OF THE CATCHER
HE'S GOOD AT BRINGING OUT THE PITCHER'S FIGHTING SPIRIT
HE SAID SOMETHING GOOD!!
OUR CAPTAIN HAS SAID SOMETHING APPROPRIATE!
WE DIDN'T NEED THAT KIND OF INTERRUPTION.

WOULDN'T IT HAPPEN AGAIN SOMEDAY?
IN THE END, HE SHOWED RESULTS
BUT HE HAD THE YIPS JUST BEFORE THAT
YOU THINK SO TOO, HUH?
THEY HAVE BEEN SENDING SAWAMURA TO THE MOUND A LOT, LATELY, HUH?
HIS GAME APPEARANCES HAS BEEN INCREASING
RIGHT!
RIGHT!
BUT THAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS "STRONG SPIRIT"—
HE WAS PROVOKED BY THE OPPONENT'S FIGHTING SPIRIT!
USING ONLY THAT KIND OF PITCHING WILL PROBABLY BECOME A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE SOMEDAY
IT WAS A PAPER-THIN DIFFERENCE EVEN IN THE MOST RECENT GAME
when did he get here?!

BASEBALL IS EVOLVING EVERY DAY
A "ALL-OR-NOTHING" KIND OF BASEBALL WON'T MAKE TO KOUSHIEN
A MORE RATIONAL EFFICIENT
IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO LEARN BASEBALL WHERE YOU CAN WIN SOONER
AND BETTER WAY OF TRAINING WOULD BE TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF YOUR PLAYES BY GAINING MUSCLE POWER

ONLY THREE MORE...
ONLY THREE MORE
UNTIL KOUSHIEN?

IT'S NOT ENOUGH...
IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH...
NASHIRO
MY POWER IS STILL NOT NEARLY ENOUGH

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: AOMADARA

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

RD: KALLAMEZ

TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALLAMEZ

FROG-FACE YET AGAIN
SHOWS THAT HE DOESN'T
KNOW JACKSHIT

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: AOMADARA

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

RD: KALLAMEZ

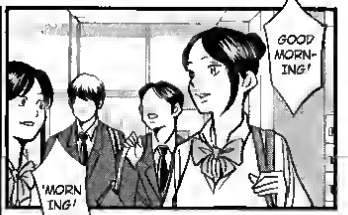
TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALLAMEZ

IN THIS CHAPTER, FROG-FACE TAKES CREDIT FOR SOMEBODY ELSE'S IDEA

Chapter 298 / The Devil's Whisper?

Mumble
Mumble


GOOD MORN-ING!
'MORN ING!

Mmmm
Mmmm

IF I SHAKE THEM WITH INSIDES AND OUTSIDES, THE BATTERS WILL BE CONFUSED
Mumble
Mumble
I'M NOT THAT SKILLFUL ..
BUT, WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THEY TARGET BOTH?
LOOKING LIKE I'LL PITCH TO THE OUTSIDE —!
I'LL THROW AN INSIDE!
Oisho—!
WHILE I'M GLARING AT THE BATTER —!
AN OUTSIDE!
HEY, HEY
Hmpf
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HALLWAY?

Original
Hmph!
YOU'RE IN EVERYONE'S WAY
DON'T BOTHER THOSE AROUND YOU!
BIG BROTHER
AND THE MUSCLE OLD-TIMER!
GOOD MORNING! IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME!
OLD-TIMER
YES!
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG BUT ARE YOU DOING ALRIGHT?
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOUR LITTLE BROTHER HARUKI?! BECOMES COLD, BUT WE'RE GETTING ALONG!
ISN'T IT BECAUSE HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU?
the sports club
ehhh~ Sawamura has that kind of attitude towards his seniors
I THINK HE'S IN HIS REBELLIOUS PHASE!!

TANBA-SAN...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE STARTING PITCHER IN THE NEXT GAME
DO YOUR BEST, SAWAMURA!
YOU'VE BEEN PROMOTED
LATER, I WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE A PROTEIN RECIPE I DEVELOPED MYSELF!
IF YOU MAKE IT TO THE FINALS, EVERYONE WILL CHEER FOR YOU!
SHOW YOUR FACE AT PRACTICE AGAIN!
HOW NICE~ YOU HAVE DECIDED ON YOUR CAREER CHOICE
THANK YOU! I WILL DO MY BEST!
PLEASE, DO YOUR BEST ON YOUR IMPORTANT EXAMS AS WELL!
DON'T SAY IMPORTANT EXAM, HMPF!

10ヤード
10ヤード

OK, NICE BALL!!
SHOW ONE MORE TO THAT SPOT AGAIN!
THAT WAS A GOOD PITCH, NORI!
NOT BAD INDEED

IT'S AN IRREGULAR SIDEARM PITCH FROM THE BATTER'S VIEW
HE ALSO HAS CONTROL ON HOW HE CAN WIDELY USE THE CORNERS
phew—

HOWEVER, SINCE THE SLIDER THAT RUNS AWAY FROM RIGHT-HANDED BATTERS, BECAME HIS CORE PITCH, HE TENDS TO SHOW THAT TIMID CHARACTER.
IF IT WAS ME, I'D MAKE HIM LEARN A SINKER THAT DROPS TOWARDS THE RIGHT BATTERS' FEET.

YOU'RE TENSING YOUR SHOULDERS
IT WASN'T ONLY A LITTLE THOUGH
MMRGH!! DAMN IT!!!
MISSED A LITTLE!!
EH, REALLY!?
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL!
HIS PITCHING STYLE IS "LET THEM HIT IF THEY CAN" EVEN THOUGH HIS CLASSLESS PITCHING HAS NOTHING SPECIAL
AS FOR THIS GUY IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS RECOVERED FROM THE YIPS
IT'S FINE TO GO ALONG WITH THE MOMENTUM, BUT, IT'S PITIFUL TO LOOK AT IF YOU CAN'T MAKE A GOOD RHYTHM
WHAT DOES THAT GENIUS CATCHER OVER THERE THINK ABOUT THIS ...?

this one is no good
that one is no good
THIS PRACTICE DOESN'T APPLY BURDEN ON MY FEET, SO IT'S FINE
SINCE I DON'T WANT TO FORGET THAT SENSE ON MY FINGERTIPS

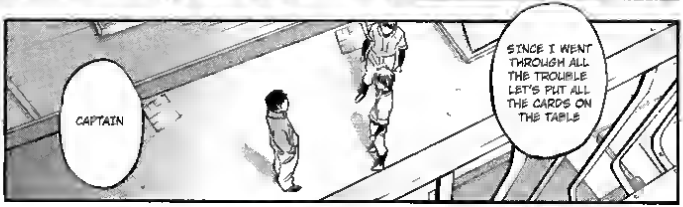
AH...
his frustration is at its peak
BUT HE IS RIGHT. WITH SEVEN RUNS SURRENDERED IN EIGHT INNINGS...
REMEMBERING THAT FRUSTRATING MEMORY, ALONG WITH NOT APPEARING IN THE NEXT GAME IS...
BOTH SAWAMURA AND FURUYA ARE GREAT.
THEY REALLY HATE LOOSING AGAINSTS EACH OTHER
THE SWELLING IN YOUR FEET HAS PROBABLY FADED A LOT
LATER, WE'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO WRAP IT WITH TAPE

YOU CAN PROBABLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE TEAM EVEN WITH A BAT, RIGHT?
YOU MIGHT NOT APPEAR AS A PITCHER...
BUT IF YOU'RE PREPARED THEY MIGHT LOSE YOU
WE'LL DO OUR BEST FOR OUR OWN SAKES!..OF COURSE, HE CAN ALSO DO THAT.
ズズズズ
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT EARLIER?
WE DEFI-NITELY WANT TO SUPPORT THESE GUYS
BECAUSE YOU OBVIOUSLY WOULD OVER-WORK YOUR-SELF
HUH!?

MAYBE OLIVA WILL BE AIMING FOR A SPECIFIC PITCH
MOST LIKELY
ALTHOUGH THEY WILL PROBABLY TRY TO RAISE THE COUNT USING A SLOW TEMPO
BUT, WOULDN'T OLIVA'S BATTERS GET CONFUSED WITH SAWAMURA'S IDIOSYNCRATIC PITCH?
HMM... THE IDIOSYNCRATIC PITCH
HUH?
THEY SHOULD PROBABLY ALREADY HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE FOUR-SEAM
AND?, RECENTLY, IT'S NOT THE IDIOSYNCRATIC PITCH THAT HE HAS BEEN THE MOST COMFORTABLE THROWING, COMPARED TO HIS PREVIOUS FORM
BUT, BECAUSE OF THAT, HIS PITCH IS BREAKING MORE
AND THE PROBLEM OF HITTING THE PITCH WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO SEE THE RELEASE POINT, HASN'T CHANGE THOUGH

HONESTLY, WHAT I'M MOST SCARED ABOUT IS AN ERROR ON HIS CONTROL
THAT'S WHY. HIS CONTROL OVER INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PITCHES HAS BECOME A BIG KEY HERE
THAT'S RIGHT...
BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU'LL HAVE TO SET UP A PLAN TO THE INSIDE ...
YEAH, BUT ...
BETWEEN YOU AND ME, WE'RE PRETTY CORNERED HERE
AMAZING THE CAPTAIN NOTICED IT?
THE GAME BEFORE WAS TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE
WHEN DID HE GET THERE!?
turning

WHA...
THIS TEAM'S FIGHTING POWER CAN'T CARRY IT TO KOUSHIEN!
EACH AND EVERY SINGLE DAY I COULD TELL IT'S A SINK-OR-SWIM SITUATION


CAPTAIN
SINCE I WENT THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE LET'S PUT ALL THE CARDS ON THE TABLE

SPEAKING BLUNTLY, AS SOON AS FURUYA HAS GROWN AM I RIGHT?
IF THIS TEAM MAKES IT TO KOUSHIEN
IT WILL BE BECAUSE OF LUCK

MIYUKI
...
...
RIGHT NOW, WITH EVERY WIN WE GET, WE ARE GROWING STRONGER
EVERY WIN WE FIGHT FOR COUR
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE PERSON THAT FIGHTS BELIEVING THAT THEY WILL LOSE
AN EXAMPLARY ANSWER.
OF A CAPTAIN THAT PULLS THE TEAM TOGETHER

HONESTLY, I'M DISAPPOINTED
WHAT IS HE SAYING
...
YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT CUT-OUT TO BE "THE CAPTAIN"
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE OF THE CALM, CALCULATING TYPE, THINKING ABOUT THE TEAM'S POWER, BUT...
HAVE I MISCALCULATED?
OR, PERHAPS HAS YOUR CURRENT POSITION CLOUDED YOUR JUDGEMENT?

ISN'T THE RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUR POSITION WEIGHING HEAVY ON YOUR SHOULDERS?
WAIT A ...
THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU TO TELL ME HONESTLY
KANE-MARU!

PLEASE! WON'T YOU LEND ME YOUR WISDOM?!
IF I AM TO GET EVEN BETTER AS A PITCHER ...
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT I LACK AND HOW TO IMPROVE!
YEAH! BRING IT!
IS IT ALRIGHT IF WE SAY IT?
NOD
the things that you lack?
I ALREADY KNOW THOSE! ANYTHING ELSE!?
UWAA AAHHH!!
FIRST AND FOREMOST... YOU'RE STUPID
YOU SHOW TOO MUCH EMOTION AT THE MOUND
YOUR PITCHES DON'T HAVE SPEED
YOUR CONTROL IS STILL IFFY
YOU GET TOO TENSE EASILY
YOU GET CARRIED AWAY IN CLASS TOO MUCH
YOU CAN'T DO PICK-OFF PLAYS
I'M SORRY I THINK
It's exactly what we talked about

I REALLY WANT TO OBTAIN A NEW WEAPON!
YOU THINK I'LL BE IN A SLUMP BECAUSE OF THAT?!!

ah...
THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR PITCHING IN JUST A FEW DAYS
HEY HEY THE GAME IS TWO DAYS FROM NOW

THE FACT THAT YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED AS THE STARTING PITCHER MEANS THEY'VE ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR STRENGTH
SIGN: DO IT NOW. DO IT PROMPTLY
NO...
BUT...
DON'T HAVE ANY STRANGE AMBITIONS IT'S FINE FIGHTING YOUR OWN WAY

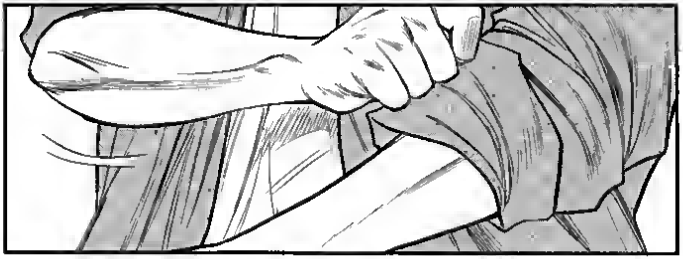
RATHER, THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE IN HIGH SPIRITS, SO CALMLY LOOK AT YOURSELF AND RELAX
NO, NO... SOMETHING HE LACKS WON'T DO
SINCE THE PERSON HIMSELF NOTICED IT, HE WOULDN'T AGREE WITH THAT STATEMENT
IN OTHER WORDS, A WINNING SHOT
WHAT YOU LACK IS A BREAKING BALL

THAT MAY BE SO, BUT...
NOT JUST A VARIATION OF A FASTBALL
WOULDN'T YOU FEEL BETTER LEADING IF YOU HAD A BREAKING BALL THAT CAN MAKE THE BATTERS MISS THE TIMING?
RIGHT HERE? EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE A GAME REALLY SOON?
Coca-Cola

DO YOU WANT ME TO TEACH YOU?

DO YOU WANT ME TO TEACH YOU A BREAKING BALL?

Chapter 298 / Stopgap Weapons



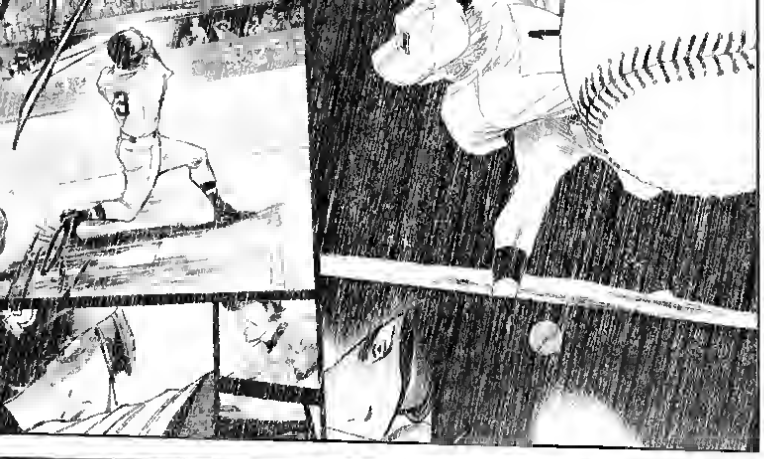
IT'S EXACTLY BECAUSE WE ARE NEAR THE NEXT GAME THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE SOMETHING YOU CAN USE RIGHT?
ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS, COACH OCHIAI?
THE NEXT GAME IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER
RIGHT NOW SAWAMURA'S PITCHES AREN'T BAD
I'M WORRIED THAT IF HE GRASPS THE BREAKING BALL IN A WEIRD WAY IT WILL MESS UP HIS PITCHING RHYTHM

I KNOW THAT
YOU CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE A LOT OF FAITH IN ME
AA

A BREAKING BALL IS EITHER THE BEST CHOICE OR NOT DEPENDING ON THE PITCHER
EACH AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM THEIR OWN PITCHING SENSE
TEACHING ISN'T A PROBLEM
glance
NOWADAYS THERE ARE SOME WHO ONLY KNOW A VARIATION OF THE FASTBALL, EVEN AFTER THEY BECAME HIGH SCHOOLERS
"that much"?
EVERYBODY CAN RECOGNIZE THAT MUCH UNSKILLFULLNESS
I'M WORRIED HE ISN'T ABLE TO PITCH EVEN A SLIDER...
cry as much as you want...
you know it's true
A CURVEBALL THAT BREAKS AS SOON AS RELEASED WOULD PROBABLY BE TOO DIFFICULT TO HIM
IF HE WAS, WOULDN'T HE HAVE DONE IT A LONG TIME AGO?
SOMEONE WHO CAN DO IT, WILL DO IT NATURALLY
IF HE ALREADY KNOWS THAT MUCH, THEN...
IN WHICH CASE, THE ONLY THING LEFT IS...

AUTHOR'S NOTE: CHANGE UP — THROWN SIMILARLY TO THE FASTBALL. IT'S A PITCH THAT IS DELIVERED BY LOWERING THE ARMS AND IT MAKES THE BATTER MISS THE TIMING

IT'S NARUMIYA'S WINNING SHOT
IT'S A PITCH THAT BREAKS NOT BY SPEED, BUT BY A SCREW-LIKE MOVEMENT
CH?
CHANG?
always true to his character
...UP?



We need to fix that out of nowhere comparison!
lazy?
I think I can laze mine a lot
OH... YOU MEAN THAT LAZY BALL!?

WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN USE IT IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU
A TWISTING OR DROPPING SENSATION ISN'T ENTIRELY NECESSARY
THE ARM DELIVERY IS THE SAME AS THE FASTBALL'S
THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART

IF YOU CAN USE THIS PITCH, WOULDN'T YOU HAVE AN EASIER TIME LEADING?
YOU WOULDN'T NEED TO LEAD A SINK-OR-SWIM SITUATION ANYMORE
...
EVEN THE COACH, PROBABLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT
ADDING MORE TEMPO TO HIS INSIDE-AND-OUTSIDE PITCHING
HERE
I WAS, INDEED, THINKING OF THAT

WRAP IT LIKE SO ...
FIRST, TRY TO MAKE AN "OK" SIGN WITH YOUR FINGERS
"OK"?
OR LOOSENING THE MIDDLE FINGER AND INDEX FINGER FROM THE BALL.
OR USING AN EAGLE GRIP.
INSERTING IT BETWEEN THE MIDDLE FINGER AND THE RING FINGER.
THAT'S THE MOST BASIC GRIP
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IF YOU CAN MAKE IT DROP THE SPEED, USE WHICH EVER YOU LIKE. YOU'RE FREE!

BUT DON'T FORGET TO LOWER YOUR ARMS PROPERLY!
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR ARM'S SWING SPEED AND THE BALL'S TRAVELLING SPEED HAS TO BE BIG ENOUGH TO FOOL THE BATTER
SFX: SWOOSH!

THIS GUY SAW IT SO CLEARLY...

FIRST, WHY NOT PLAY SOME CATCH BALL?

THE ONE WITH A CARELESS FACE
HERE YOU'RE VERY AWARE OF THE EXHAUSTION YOUR PITCHING METHOD HAS CAUSED YOU RECENTLY, RIGHT?
AS SOMEONE WHO FOCUSES ONLY AT THE MOMENT OF THE PITCH, YOU CAN THROW USING THAT
ER...

UNDERSTOOD. I WILL CATCH FOR HIM
THAT'S GOOD
YES!
SAWAMURA, YOU CAN TRY VARIOUS GRIPS
USE WHICHEVER SUITS YOU

ARE YOU SERIOUS? RIGHT BEFORE THE GAME?
USE ANY KIND OF GRIPPING?
UNTIL THEY TAUGHT ME THE FOUR-SEAM, I'D BEEN GRIPPING WITH WHATEVER SEEMED FIT
EVEN MIYUKI-SENPAI
BUT THAT WAS REALLY UNPOPULAR
THROW IT LIGHTLY!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE EIJUN-KUN'S PITCH IS GOING, SO I'M SCARED—

IF HE IS SOMEONE WHO CAN DO IT, HE WILL DO IT
IF HE CAN'T, HE IS A PITCHER ONLY TO THAT EXTENT

今日学べ
FIRST, THROW IT LIKE A FASTBALL

GRIPPING IS FREEDOM
...

SFX: OUYA METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL

HEY! HIT IT HIGHER!
FOUR HOURS AGO—
RUNNERS!
I SEE THEY DON'T NEED TO PREPARE THE FIELD AFTER THIS
EVEN SO, THE TIME BETWEEN HITS IS SURPRISINGLY SHORT...
THEY'RE NOT USING THE FIELDS, BUT THEY ARE HITTING FACING THE BACK OF THE NET...
HITTING IT HIGH IS SO OLD SCHOOL!!
SORRY!
ONE AFTER ANOTHER IT'S LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SPARE

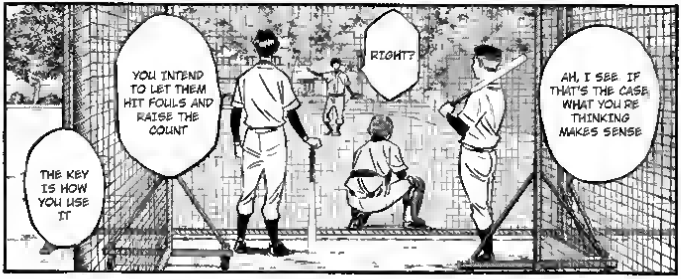
THE SOCCER TEAM AND THE TRACK TEAM ARE USING THE FIELD RIGHT NOW
AFTER THIS, EVERYONE WILL FINISH WITH FUNGO HITTING DRILLS FOR THIRTY MINUTES
Eh? already?
THE PART-TIME STUDENTS WILL COME SOON
BUT IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE TOURNAMENT RIGHT?
THIS KIND OF FEELING IS NORMAL
BECAUSE OF THAT WE DO A LOT OF PRACTICE GAMES DURING SATURDAYS
WE ARE A PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR UNIVERSITIES, SO WE'VE DECIDED NOT TO SEND OUT PLAYERS WHO HAVE NEGLECTED THEIR STUDIES
THEN, YOU'VE MADE INTO KOUSHIEN FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS IN A ROW WITH ONLY THIS LITTLE PRACTICE?
OF COURSE WINNING GAMES WITH ONLY THIS IS DIFFICULT
THE PLAYERS PROBABLY ARE THE ONES THAT KNOW IT BEST

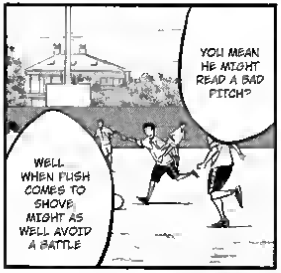
WE THINK FOR OURSELVES
WE COME UP WITH OUR OWN PLANS
SHOW OUR IDEAS
WHAT DO YOU DO IN SUCH A LIMITED TIME?
IF THE OUTCOME WAS DECIDED ON OUR PRACTICE TIME, WE WOULD ALREADY BE OVER
BUT, ISN'T THAT WHAT MAKES BASEBALL SO INTERESTING?
OUYA HIGH SCHOOL COACH
ARAGI ICHIROU
HEY HEY
WHAT'S THE SECRET FOR THAT BEAUTIFUL SKIN AT YOUR FORTIES?

HOW'S THAT?
CAN I USE THE SHUUTO?

I DON'T INTEND ON USING MY WINNING SHOT
THERE ARE THOSE WHO CAN HIT TO RIGHT FIELD AND THOSE THAT DO BUNTS

YOU CAN IF YOU HAVE PERFECT CONTROL TO THE INSIDE
BUT IF THE BATTER HITS IT WOULDN'T IT BECOME MEANINGLESS?


RIGHT?
YOU INTEND TO LET THEM HIT FOULS AND RAISE THE COUNT
AH, I SEE IF THAT'S THE CASE WHAT YOU'RE THINKING MAKES SENSE
THE KEY IS HOW YOU USE IT


YOU MEAN HE MIGHT READ A BAD PITCH?
WELL WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE MIGHT AS WELL AVOID A BATTLE

IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO SAY THAT KIND OF THING

HMMM
BUT I STILL CAN'T SEE MYSELF SHUTTING DOWN THAT 4TH BATTER

NO WAY I AM GOING TO BE CORNERED WITH A TWO POINT DIFFERENCE
SO ANNOYING!
THE GUY!
IF THAT LINEUP BECOMES OUR OPPONENT, WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO GIVE UP AS MANY AS FIVE POINTS
BUT, TO WIN THE GAME, I WANT TO SHUT THEM DOWN WITHINT THREE POINTS!
GOU-CHAN'S GAME PREDICTION IS RIGHT ON THE MONEY
FROM ONLY THAT LINEUP?
PROBABLY NOT! THE ACE WOULD ALSO GET FIVE POINTS!
RATHER, DO YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE YOU CAN SHUT THEM DOWN WITHIN FIVE POINTS?
OH, LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD A GOOD IDEA
SUMI, GET READY!!
AH!

I'LL ARRANGE THAT SHUUTO FROM BEFORE, AND...

HOW WAS THAT?
NIHIHI HIHIHI HIHIHI
SHUTTING DOWN THE 4TH BATTER ENTIRELY MIGHT BE HARD. BUT WE CAN SOMEHOW MANAGE AS MUCH WITH THE 1ST AND 2ND BATTERS RIGHT?

THE ODDS OF US WINNING WON'T INCREASE UNTIL THE GAME
I WILL USE ANYTHING, BE IT A STOPGAP OR A BLUFF
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
GOU-CHAN...
THE PRIVATE SCHOOL BASEBALL BIG-SHOTS WHO DO NOTHING BUT PRACTICE ALL YEAR, EVERY YEAR
DON'T WANT TO LOSE, EVEN IF THEY DIE!

Ace of Diamond

ABOUT PITCHES AND GRIPS

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS SPACE AND EXPRESS MY ISSUES WITH SOME THINGS THAT HAS BEEN SAID IN THIS MANGA FOR THE PAST 2 CHAPTERS OR SO AS WELL AS DEVELOP A BIT ON WHAT WAS SAID IN THIS CHAPTER.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE THE JAPANESE LEAGUE DEFINE IT DIFFERENTLY, BUT, AS FAR AS THE **MLB** GOES, CHANGEUPS ARE **NOT** CONSIDERED BREAKING BALLS. A BREAKING BALL IS SOMETHING THAT IT'S NOT ONLY NATURALLY SLOWER THAN THE FASTBALL, BUT ALSO IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE DECEPTIVE. SO MUCH SO, THAT THEIR WHOLE DELIVERY IS DIFFERENT. BREAKING BALLS ARE THINGS LIKE A CUVEBALL, A SLIDER, A SLURVE, A SCREWBALL OR A SHUUTO. CHANGEUPS AND IT'S VARIATIONS, AS WELL AS THINGS LIKE THE PALMBALL, ARE CALLED "OFF-SPEED" PITCHES. THEY ARE CALLED AS SUCH BECAUSE THEIR DELIVERY SPEED IS THE SAME OF THE FASTBALL, BUT THE BALL TRAVELLING SPEED IS MUCH LOWER, TICKING OFF THE BATTER'S TIMING. THE FASTER YOUR USUAL ARM DELIVERY IS, THE GREATER THE DECEPTION. THAT'S WHY UBBBBBBALDO JIMENEZ'S CHANGEUP IS, USUALLY, ONE OF HIS BEST, MOST CONSISTENT PITCHES.

NOT QUITE, MY DEAR KANEMARU. THE **REGULAR** CHANGEUP DOES NOT BREAK. AT ALL. THE IMPRESSION THAT IT SUDDENLY "DROPS" MID-FLIGHT IS CAUSED BY THE FACT THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE A STRONG BACKSPIN, LIKE THE 4SEAM DOES, MAKING IT MUCH MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO AIR RESISTANCE, MAKING IT LOSE ENERGY MUCH FASTER.

NOW, THE **CIRCLE-CHANGEUP** INDEED DOES BREAK. IT BREAKS DOWNWARDS AND INSIDE TO A LEFT-HANDED HITTER, IF THROWN BY A SOUTHPAWN LIKE SAWAMURA (IF THROWN BY A RIGHTY, IT'S DOWNWARDS AND INSIDE TO A RIGHT-HANDED HITTER), THANKS TO THE WAY THE PITCHER SNAPS HIS WHRIST RIGHT BEFORE HE RELEASES THE BALL.

THIS VARIATION IS PROBABLY THE ONE FROGFACE MEANT TO TEACH HIM, WITH THAT "OK" SIGN ANALOGY. BELOW, THERE ARE TWO PICS. ONE FROM THE REGULAR CHANGE GRIP AND THE CIRCLE-CHANGE GRIP.

GRIP OF A REGULAR CHANGEUP

GRIP OF A CIRCLE-CHANGEUP

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: AOMADARA

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

RD: KALLAMEZ

TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALLAMEZ

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: AOMADARA

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

RD: KALLAMEZ

TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALLAMEZ

RIP 2015 SEASON

Ace of Diamond

Chapter 300 / Original

SAWAMURA, YOUR FACE IS STILL STIFF!
RELAX! WE'RE ONLY PLAYING CATCHBALL!
RELAX!! RELAX!!
smile~
JUST LIKE ALWAYS
RELAX ...

RELA
...
今日学べ
今やれすぐやれ
GOD
...
DAMN
IT!
.....!

YOU'RE PITCHING UNNATURALY DUMBASS...
YOU STIFFENED UP JUST BEFORE YOU THREW IT
DAMN IT!!
THERE IS SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON!
NO I DIDN'T PUT PRESSURE ON THE GRIP THIS TIME...
YOU DON'T NEED TO PUT PRESSURE INTO THE GRIP YOU KNOW?
HUH? REALLY KANEMARU?
WE'VE BEEN SAYING THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING!
SAWAMURA... BEING CLUELESS TO THIS EXTENT...
TOUJOU, COULD YOU SHOW US AGAIN?
HE PROBABLY THINKS THAT IT WON'T WORK UNLESS HE PUTS PRESSURE ON HIS FINGERTIPS, SO HE DOES SO WITHOUT THINKING
EVEN THOUGH HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE MOTION MUST BE LIKE THAT OF A FASTBALL...

WITHOUT GRIPPING IT TOO TIGHTLY
LOWER THE ARM WITH STRENGTH
JUST LIKE ALWAYS
OHH!

YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO USE THAT, RIGHT?
YEAH, I'M SURPRISED TOO
IT WAS EASIER THAN I EXPECTED
SEE? THAT'S HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO GO!
HE SWINGS HIS ARM LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO!
clap clap clap clap
NICE JOB!
NO WAY!
I CAN DO THE CHANGEUP TOO!
SAWAMURA — WHY DON'T YOU SWITCH WITH TOUJOU IN THE NEXT GAME?
YOU'RE DOING IT TOO UPRIGHT
YOU NORMALLY DON'T PITCH LIKE THAT, DO YOU?
HERE I GO!
IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER TO STOP HIM EARLY
ANYMORE THAN THIS COULD AFFECT HIS PITCHING

YOU ARE NOT SPREADING YOUR WEIGHT TO YOUR LEGS
TRANSFER YOUR CENTER OF MASS JUST LIKE YOU WOULD IN A REAL GAME AND PITCH!
CENTER OF MASS
DON'T TRY TO FORCE IT
STAND ON YOUR PIVOT LEG
STAY WITH HIM A LITTLE LONGER, CAPTAIN
IT WOULD BE UNREASONABLE TO ALLOW HIM TO DO THAT DURING A GAME ARE WE JUST EXPECTING TOO MUCH FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN?
UNDERSTOOD

WHILE SHIFTING YOUR CENTER OF MASS
USE THE TORQUE GENERATED BY YOUR BODY'S LOWER HALF
TO THE BODY'S LOWER HALF

HUH?
OH!?

JUST NOW ...
MY ARM WENT *WOOSH*!
he did it
WASN'T IT GREAT?
YEAH, IT MOVED WELL
YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FLUKE, THOUGH
JUST FROM THE COACH'S ADVICE, HE SUDDENLY...

SO AS TO REDUCE THE STRENGTH ON HIS BODY'S UPPER HALF, DID HE MAKE HIM AWARE OF THE CENTER OF MASS ON HIS BODY'S LOWER HALF, WHILE PITCHING?
YOU'RE MAKING A FUSS OVER JUST ONE PITCH
THAT STUPID LOOK ON YOUR FACE IS PERFECT!
YEAH, YEAH THAT FACE
PROPERLY PLACE...
MY OWN WEIGHT ...

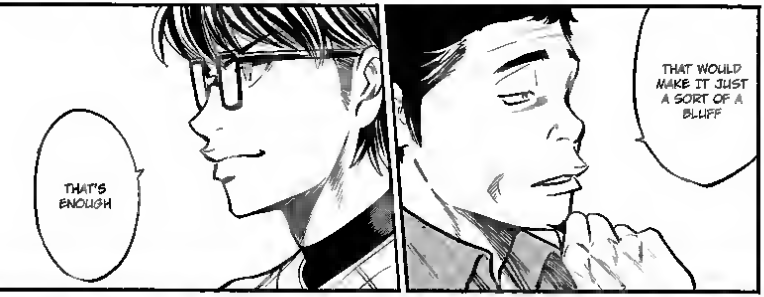
AND SWING MY ARM SHARPLY
むん
OOO...
UWOOO OHHH!!

YOU DROPPED YOUR ARM AS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO, SO THE SPEED DROPPED AS WELL!!
FI... FINALLY, SAWAMURA LEARNED A BREAKING BALL!
YOU GOT IT!

I LOVE YOU ALL!
THANK YOU!
THROW IT AGAIN! QUICK!
MAKE YOUR BODY MEMORIZE IT BEFORE YOU FORGET

CAN YOU THROW IT LOWER?
THE HARD PART START'S NOW
SINCE YOU'RE AN IDIOT WHO NEVER THINKS ABOUT THINGS!

INDEED
BUT, WOULDN'T AN UNDER-THE-RADAR SCHOOL LIKE OIYA BE CONFUSED ENOUGH WITH A BREAKING BALL?


THAT WOULD MAKE IT JUST A SORT OF A BLUFF
THAT'S ENOUGH

SAWAMURA! NEXT IS YOUR GRIP!
TRY A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT ONES AND SEE WHAT SUITS YOU BEST!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, D'D YOU THINK HE WOULD ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO DO IT?
WELL
THAT WAS A PRETTY LONG PAUSE

THE EAGLE GRIP?
I WONDER HOW THAT WILL LOOK LIKE
I THINK I CAN LOWER MY ARM BETTER WITH THIS
I'VE BEEN THROWING IT LIKE THIS SINCE I'VE STARTED WITH BASEBALL
THEN, I WILL TRY THIS
EDIN: EAGLE GRIP MY ASS. THIS IS A FALMBALL GRIP

THEN, HERE I COME!

BUT, WE CAN AT LEAST SEE WHAT KIND OF PITCH IT WILL BE SINCE THERE IS NO PREASSURE FROM RUNNERS
THERE'S A RISK OF TURNING IT INTO A POWER-LESS FASTBALL IF DONE WRONG

OH...
THIS ONE IS NO GOOD. IT WASN'T AS SLOW AS THE PREVIOUS ONE.

IT FELT EASIER TO DO IT THAN BEFORE ...
HOW WAS THAT!!?

HEH, THAT'S THE BEST OF YUI-CHAN'S LIFE
Squeeze
THEN, NEXT IS THIS ONE ...
JUST NOW, DID IT HAVE SOME KIND OF STRANGE MOVEMENT?

EVERY PITCHER
I WILL HOLD IT BETWEEN THE MIDDLE AND THE RING FINGERS AND...
AHH, WHAT A SHITTY GRIP...
HERE I GO!
HAVE THEIR OWN IDEAS AND TASTES ABOUT THE BREAKING BALL
今日学べ
今やれすぐ
EVEN THEIR CHARACTER, EVERY PITCHER IS DIFFERENT
PHYSIQUE
FORM
THE SIZE OF THEIR HANDS
THE LENGTH OF THE FINGERS

EVEN IF IT'S THE SAME KIND OF PITCH...
IF PITCHED BY TEN DIFFERENT PEOPLE, YOU WOULD GET TEN DIFFERENT KINDS OF BREAKING BALLS

AH! WAS THAT A BAD DELIVERY!?
SORRY! THAT WAS MY BAD
IT'S EVEN SHARPER THAN BEFORE!
THAT IS ...
MYUKI COULDN'T CATCH IT
A PITCH EXCLUSIVE TO HIMSELF, THAT CAN'T BE COPIED BY ANYBODY ELSE

EVEN THOUGH IT'S FROM THE SAME ARM, JUST BY CHANGING THE GRIP, HE CHANGED THE BREAK...
HMM. IDIOSYN CRATIC PITCH
BUT WOULDN'T OLYMPUS BATTERS BE CONFUSED WITH SAWAMURA'S IDIO-SYNCRATIC PITCH?
HUH?
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT HIS PITCHING IS BREAKING MORE
THEY SHOULD PROBABLY ALREADY HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE FOUR-SEAM
AND RECENTLY IT'S NOT THE IDIOSYNCRATIC PITCH THAT HE HAS BEEN THE MOST COMFORTA-BLE THROWING COMPARED TO HIS PREVIOUS FORM
THIS IS...
A SAWAMURA ORIGINAL

AN EVOLUTION OF...
HIS IDIO-SYNCRATIC PITCH!
CAN I TRY SOME MORE?!
I LIKE THE FEELING I'M HAVING RIGHT NOW!

ACE OF DIAMOND BRIGADE

RW: AOMADARA

TL: HISA-HISA

CL: KALLAMEZ

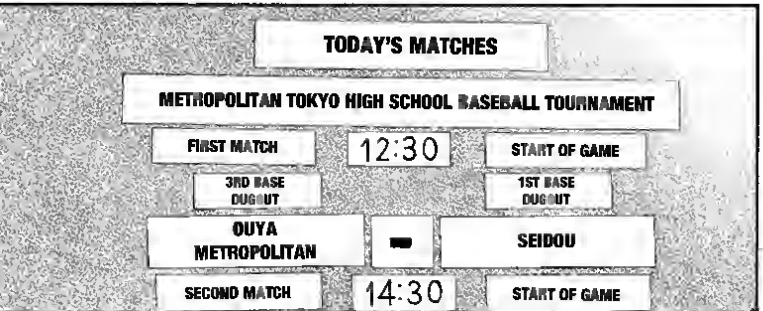
RD: KALLAMEZ

TS: KALLAMEZ

QC: KALLAMEZ

RIP 2015 SEASON

SIGN: JINGU MEIJI 2ND BASEBALL STADIUM



Chapter 301 / Impromptu Performance

ANOTHER FORKBALL?
BALL!
WHY USE IT IF IT'S ONLY GOING TO INCREASE HIS COUNT?
HE'S REALLY PERSISTENT

BALL TWO!
NICE PLAY, KOMINATO!!
SEVEN PITCHES FOR THE FIRST OUT, AND SIX FOR THE SECOND OUT ...
MAN, THEY REALLY ARE MAKING IT AS HARD AS POSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET A SINGLE OUT.
phew

UNF!!
FASTBA...
4

!!
A SUBERB STARTING PITCHING!! OUYA'S HIGH SCHOOL ACE, WAKABAYASHI, HAD AN ONE-TWO-THREE FIRST INNING!
YEAH!
A GROUNDER TO THIRD!

NICE PITCHING!
NICE PITCHING, GOU-CHAN!
GOU-CHAN NICE PITCHING!
I'M SURPRISED YOU USED THE SHUUTO!
THEY WOULDN'T SWING AT THE FORKBALLS
WASN'T THAT A REALLY RISKY GAMBLE?
THEY'RE REALLY STUBBORN
YEAH THIS ISN'T A SITUATION WHERE WE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT APPEARANCES
OUYA HIGH SCHOOL COACH
ARAGI ICHIROU

IT WOULD BE ANNOYING IF HE STARTED USING IT MORE
SPECIALLY AGAINST RIGHT-HANDED BATTERS
A SHUUTO?
NO IT WAS MORE LIKE A SHUUTO
WAS THE LAST ONE A FASTBALL?
YESSIR!
IGNORE THE LOW PITCHES AND AIM FOR FASTBALLS!
DO NOT LET AN EASY PITCH NEAR THE BELT TO GO THROUGH, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE
CAREFULLY RAISE THE COUNT WITH THE PITCHING TO THE OUTSIDE
PRIMARILY FOCUS ON THE BATTER IN FRONT OF YOU
SAWAMURA!

WHEN YOU HAVE A GOOD STRIKE COUNT AND IT'S AT A GOOD RHYTHM
IF YOU ARE CONFIDENT, TRY IT!
LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE LEADOFF MAN FIRST
1ST BATTER, SHORTSTOP
KURAMOCHI YOUICHI
SECOND BATTER, RIGHT FIELD
SHIRASU KENJIROU
LET THEM HIT IT!
5TH BATTER, 1ST BASEMAN
MAEZONO KENTA

IF YOU DO IT JUST LIKE IN PRACTICE THEN THE OPPONENTS WILL BE SURPRISED
6TH BATTER, CENTER FIELDER
TOUJOU HIDEAKI
WE ARE ALL ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR IT
3RD BATTER 2ND BASEMAN
KOMINATO HARUICHI
I WILL CATCH EVERYTHING THEY HIT!
let them hit to me!
7TH BATTER THIRD BASEMAN
KANEMARU SHINJI
no comment
BENCH
HIGASA SHOUJI
8TH BATTER LEFT FIELDER
ASOU TAKERU
ALRIGHT, SHALL WE GO!?
4TH BATTER CATCHER
MIYUKI KAZUYA

9TH BATTER, PITCHER
SAWAMURA
EIJUN
RAAA
AAAA
SHAAAA
AAAAAA
AAAAAA

HERE I GO
TWO DAYS AGO
A-
A CHANGEUP!?

HI-
HIGH-SPEED!?
NEXT, PITCH THE HIGH-SPEED CHANGEUP
UNDERSTOOD
SAWAMURA!
EAGLE GRIP!?
IT SEEMS THAT HE CAN PITCH BETTER USING THE EAGLE GRIP
THAT'S HOW WE CALL IT HOWEVER IT'S VERY SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL IDIOSYNCRATIC PITCH—
TO MY BODY'S LOWER HALF
PROPERLY TRANSFER MY WEIGHT

AND SWING
IT STRONGLY
ボン

RIGHT NOW WHAT WE CAN SAFELY USE AMOUNT TO THIS MUCH
*hmp?!
WE CAN TRY THE OTHER ONES BUT WE STILL CAN'T USE THEM WELL
OTHER ONES!?
IT NOT ONLY BREAKS VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY, BUT IT ALSO HAS DEPTH
and we are talking about Sawamura
THEIR LEAD WILL DICTATE HOW THEY HANDLE IT
IF IT'S THAT CAPTAIN,SHOULDN'T THEY BE ABLE TO USE IT WELL?

WHENEVER HE CHANGES THE GRIP THE BREAK CHANGE AS WELL. IT SURPRISED ME AT FIRST
IF HE BECOMES ABLE TO USE THIS PITCH WELL, HIS VALUE AS A PITCHER, WOULD CHANGE
WAS THE CHANGEUP YOUR IDEA?
HE ON HIS OWN DECIDED ON LEARNING A BREAKING BALL I JUST GAVE HIM ADVICES
LAST MINUTE!?
BUT IN THE END THIS IS JUST A LAST MINUTE STOP-GAP WEAPON
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW IT WOULD PERFORM IN A REAL GAME
SAWAMURA! DO YOUR HEAVY BREATHING!

THAT'S FINE! EVEN THOUGH HE IS A SOUTHPAW WITH A QUIRK, HE CAN ONLY PITCH A VARIATION OF THE FASTBALL, RIGHT?
MAYBE THEY'RE LOOKING DOWN ON US?
BUT I THOUGHT THEY WOULD'VE SENT THAT RIGHT-HANDED SIDEARM
IT'S JUST LIKE GOU-CHAN SAID THEY'RE NOT SENDING THE PITCHER WITH THE STRONG FASTBALL
I WANT TO LET THEM HIT STRONGLY
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I WILL BE ABLE TO
SO.... ERR....
TO EVERYONE AT MY BACK, WHO ARE MENTALLY PREPARED, PLEASE, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
KEEP IT SIMPLE!
TOO LONG!
SAKA-MURA!
YEAH, IT WAS AN INVITATION FROM THE CAPTAIN
YOU CAME?

WILL IT BRING GOOD LUCK
OR WILL IT BE YOUR RUIN?
SO... AN IMPROMPTU PERFORMANCE...
USING THE BREAKING BALL YOU JUST LEARNED...
TO BE CONTINUED ON V 35

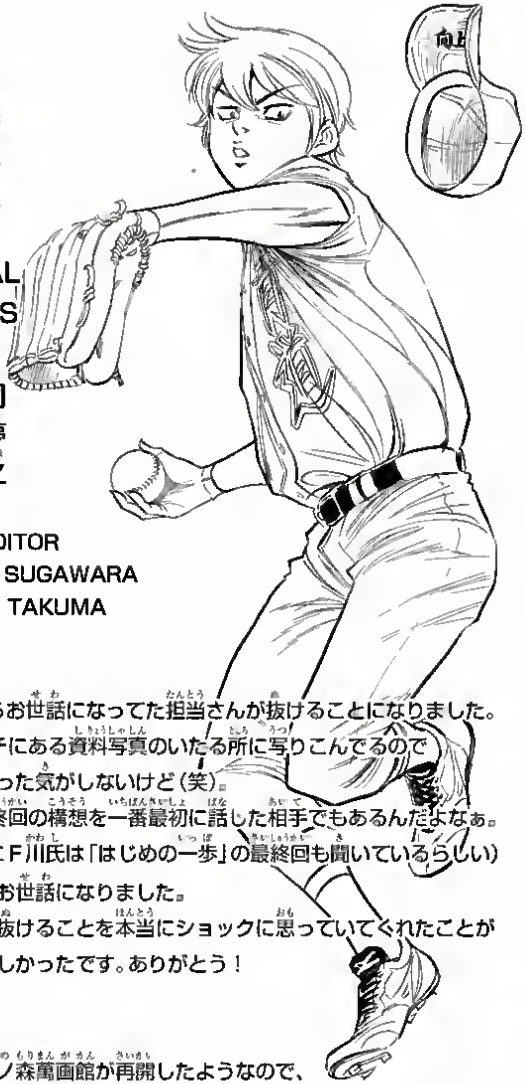
STAFF

栗栖正義
浦谷篤志
宇野健志

SPECIAL THANKS

清水貴司
長瀬宙夢
石井康之

EDITOR
KIICHIRO SUGAWARA
NAOKI TAKUMA



23巻からお世話になってた担当さんが抜けることになりました。
まぁ、ウチにある資料写真のいたる所に写りこんでるので
いなくなった気がしないけど(笑)。
あと、最終回の構想を一番最初に話した相手でもあるんだよなぁ。
(ちなみにF川氏は「はじめの一歩」の最終回も聞いているらしい)
とにかくお世話になりました。
担当から抜けることを本当にショックに思っていてくれたことが
一番うれしかったです。ありがとう!

石巻の石ノ森萬画館が再開したようなので、
また訪れようと思います。

寺嶋裕二